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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



How do you burn through billions?
► **PAGE 13**

WORLD



Haiti's biggest shantytown is getting a psychedelic makeover.
► **PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



Leonardo da Vinci gets the super-star treatment on Starz.
► **PAGE 20**

Ayuyu volunteers to suspend his pay, allowance. PAGE 2
Police tag 2 suspects in burglary at apartment of ballerinas. PAGE 6

'Progress' in proposed status for CNMI's long-term workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said yesterday that "progress is being made" on a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration bill in Congress that is expected to include giving improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI. This comes a few days after worker groups sent identical letters to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Sablan, and other officials urging their support for lawful permanent residency or "green card" for qualified nonresidents.

» **Groups urge CNMI officials to support pathway to US citizenship with additional 3 or 5 years waiting period**

Any improved immigration status proposal, however, would require an additional waiting time from the date the bill becomes law. This could be an additional five to eight years.

Moreover, it is expected that this applies to those who have been in the CNMI for at least five years as of May 2008 and continues to be here legally until the bill is enacted into law.

But since any U.S. immigration bill with language pertaining to the CNMI has yet to be released, nothing is etched

See WORKERS on Page 4

N. Korea puts forces on combat ready status

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korea put its artillery and "strategic" rocket units on combat ready status yesterday, March 26, with orders to prepare for strikes against the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, and Guam, state media reported.

A statement from the Korean People's Army supreme command ordered "all artillery troops including strategic rocket units and long-range artillery units to be placed under class-A combat readiness".

The units should be prepared to attack "all U.S. military bases in the Asia-Pacific region, including the U.S. mainland, Hawaii and Guam",

See N.KOREA on Page 4



BIKE PATROLLERS

Police bike course trainers police officers Jason Tarkong, extreme left, and Jesse Dubrall, extreme right, join nine of 10 police officers and firefighters who completed the training yesterday at the parking lot of Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan. Bike Patrol is part of DPS' newly created Tourism Oriented Policing Section.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
See story on Page 3

IN DISPUTE ON ACCESS TO MANAGAHA ISLAND

Judge favors marine sports operators

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued yesterday a ruling in favor of five marine sports operators that are

suing for access to Managaha Island.

» **DPL rule set aside as invalid**

Camacho determined that the Department of Public Lands' December 2011 and June 2012 letters barring these operators from picking up their customers from Managaha were unlawful, made



Camacho

without observance of the procedures required by law.

"The rule announced in those letters is hereby set aside as invalid," said Camacho in an

See JUDGE on Page 4

Local

Ayuyu volunteers to suspend his pay and allowance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) has volunteered to suspend his monthly salary and subsistence allowance effective April 1 until the criminal charges against him are resolved.

Ayuyu has been in jail since Dec. 17 on charges of alleged smuggling of endangered fruit bats, witness tampering and possession of cellular phone in

his prison cell.

He continued to receive his pay and other benefits while in prison, drawing concerns from community members.

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate accepted Ayuyu's voluntary benefit suspension.

The Senate was scheduled to act yesterday afternoon on the Rules and Procedures Committee's recommendation to suspend Ayuyu's salary and other benefits and suspend him as a senator.

However, hours before the 2:45pm session, Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) received Ayuyu's letter.

"In reference to the above matter of which the undersigned is currently in custody, I am requesting for the suspension of my payroll and subsistence allowance pending the resolution of the charges against me," Ayuyu, 48, said in his letter, hand delivered by his lawyer to

the Senate.

Ayuyu's annual salary is \$39,300. He also receives \$76,000 in annual discretionary funds and a \$4,200 monthly subsistence allowance.

His letter does not mention the suspension of the annual discretionary fund that lawmakers use to hire staff and for office operations.

With Ayuyu voluntarily suspending his pay and subsistence allowance, Hocog said there is no immediate need to act on the committee's other recom-

mendation to suspend Ayuyu as a senator since he cannot participate in any legislative work anyway as he remains in jail.

"Even if we don't suspend Senator Ayuyu at this time as a senator, he will not perform any work as a senator anyway," said Hocog, who chairs the Rules and Procedures Committee.

Hocog said if Ayuyu is found not guilty, he is entitled to retroactive salary.

However, if found guilty, the Rules and Procedures Committee will start working on a recommendation for Ayuyu's expulsion as a senator, Hocog said.

The Senate referred the committee report on Ayuyu back to the Rules and Procedures panel.

Hocog said the Senate will provide a copy of Ayuyu's letter to the Department of Finance, which issues the salaries and benefits of lawmakers and other government officials and employees.

Senators declined to comment on court evidence linking the current Senate president to Ayuyu's alleged fruit bat smuggling, particularly the 14 calls made on Oct. 17, 2010, between Torres and Ayuyu, which they said is "not the norm between these two gentlemen."

Over 1,800 DB members seek to withdraw employee contributions

As of today, more than 1,800 members of the Defined Benefit Plan have submitted applications to withdraw their employee contributions under Public Law 17-82 as amended by Public Law 18-02, according to NMI Retirement Fund acting administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan.

In her declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday, Pangelinan said the Defined Benefit Plan had approximately 2,200 active mem-

bers in February 2013.

Pangelinan said pursuant to Section 2 of Public Law 18-02, the employee contributions of withdrawing active Defined Benefit Plan members have now ceased.

Her declaration was filed in court by the Fund counsel in support of the Fund's response to retiree Betty Johnson's emergency motion for clarification of the court's order.

Pangelinan said because so many employee contributions have ceased, it is now expected that the majority of employer contributions will cease as well.

"As the expected revenue to be received from the government will severely decrease, the Fund will have to spend more

from the corpus to make up the shortfall," she disclosed.

Pangelinan said using more of the corpus to meet pension obligations instead of using employer contributions from the government will bring about the end of the Fund earlier than expected.

She cited an example the fiscal year 2013 budget in which the Fund anticipated receiving approximately \$14 million in employer contributions and needing to draw down \$57.5 million from the Fund corpus.

Pangelinan said since the beginning of fiscal year 2013 on Oct. 1, 2012, the Fund has had to draw down more than \$33.5 million from the corpus. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Health insurance firms assured of discounted rate on new CHC fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The long wait of health insurance companies in their appeal for discounts on the new and higher rates at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will apparently soon be over.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that health insurance firms will soon be given discounted rates on the new hospital's fees.

Babauta, however, could not immediately state the percentage amount of the discount.

The corporation increased hospital fees and services in August 2012 by as much as 300 percent.

Insurance firms described the new rates as significantly higher than that of Guam and other

states. They said these high rates will lead to higher health insurance premiums, which will result in more people becoming uninsured.

The health insurance carriers, in a request to the corporation in September, recommended replacing the announced fee increases with a 20-percent across-the-board hike and plan for small adjustments in future years, based on true hospital rate setting calculations. In the alternative, they want a 50-percent discount on the rates.

The corporation has yet to formally respond to these appeals.

Since October, the corporation has been working with insurance firms for a new provider agreement that will integrate the new fees. Due to this yet-to-be-settled agreement, some claims

remain pending.

"The decision will be finalized this week. We have to get back to the insurance companies to discuss some specifics such as the effectivity date and the [discount] percentage," said Babauta yesterday.

He hinted, however, that it would be impossible to comply with their request of a 50-percent discount.

Saipan Tribune learned that insurance companies asked the corporation to implement the new rates starting January 2013 and not August 2012. They also asked for consideration on other "specific rates" included in the new charge master.

The new fees will not affect government programs such as Medicare or Medicaid and will only impact people who are insured through private payers.

Saipan lawmakers OK 3 SHEFA re-appointments

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed yesterday afternoon the re-appointment of three Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board members but deferred action until at least next week on a local bill re-appropriating \$200,344 in leftover funding for various Precinct V projects.

Saipan lawmakers confirmed the re-appointments of SHEFA board members Jose C. Mafnas, Juan K. Tenorio, and Josephine T. Sablan.

The delegation confirmed the appointments prior to receiving the results of their drug testing.

Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) said if and when the drug test results are "positive," the confirmation is automatically cancelled.

Tebuteb also said the delegation will seek clarification whether Mafnas' recent designation as acting Division of Customs director will have any impact on his being re-appointed to the SHEFA board.

The delegation, meanwhile,

deferred acting on Rep. Antonio Agulto's (IR-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-4, re-appropriating \$200,344 in fund balance from Saipan Local Law 16-1 section 1(A) for various projects in Precinct V.

Rep. Lorenzo Leon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) raised concerns about the proposal but Tebuteb said the delegation would like to wait for Deleon Guerrero's return from a utilities conference off-island before entertaining the bill. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

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Mayor backs initiative to abolish municipal councils

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores supports the effort to abolish

DPS chief launches unit to safeguard tourist area

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero yesterday disclosed the launching of the Tourism Oriented Policing Section, a new unit that aims to protect tourists and residents in the area designated as the Garapan revitalization district.

Deleon Guerrero said the TOPS project partners DPS with the Marianas Visitors Authority, Duty Free Shoppers, and other local businesses within the district.

A graduation ceremony was held at the Hard Rock Café Saipan yesterday for 10 police officers and firefighters who completed the training for the bike patrol unit. The DPS Bike Patrol Unit is part of TOPS.

Deleon Guerrero said the area covered under TOPS has been expanded to include the housing area in Upper Miha.

The overall idea, he said, is to foster better relationship between police, businesses, and members of the community for the safety of tourists and district residents.

Sgt. Arnold Seman and DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau commander Jeffrey Olopai will be working hand in hand on this project.

Seman was named the top of the class. The nine who obtained bike patrol certification were CIB commander Jeffrey Olopai, detectives Israel De Leon, Flora Aguon, Jeffrey Norita, J.B. Cepeda, and Roque Camacho, Fire's Lt. Kevin Aldan, arson investigator Patrick George, and arson investigator Norman Skilling.

Police officer Jason Tarkong said the 10 officers completed a 40-hour police bike course.

"They're good. As a matter of fact this is one of my better class," said Tarkong who conducted the training with police officer Jesse Dubrall.

Tarkong said bike patrol officers are a lot more approachable because they are more exposed to the public.

"It's really a community oriented policing tool that allows us to stop, talk to, shake hands, and meet people," he said.

Tarkong said he has trained and certified over 60 police officers and firefighters as bike patrols over the years.

Tarkong said TOPS is a combination of highly trained police officers that include firefighters.

"It's the commissioner's commitment to the community oriented policing," he added.

municipal councils on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Flores said in an interview that the abolition of the municipal councils would translate to significant savings, which could be used to fund mayor's offices in the Commonwealth.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and at least seven other representatives recently prefled a legislative initiative that would amend the CNMI Constitution to abolish

municipal councils to help eliminate redundancy of functions, cut costs, and reduce the size of government.

If the initiative passes the Legislature, it will be placed before voters to decide on either at the next regular general election or the next special election, whichever comes earlier.

According to Flores, he was unaware that the municipal councils receive a combined budget of over \$450,000.

"That is quite a budget and I'm glad that the Legislature is doing this to save the government a lot of money," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked if his stance has anything to do with his spat with Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, Flores replied, "No, it's nothing personal."

Flores noted that the savings to be generated from this move can help fund some of the needs

of the Saipan Mayor's Office, including purchase and maintenance of heavy equipment.

He said most of the heavy equipment that the office owns

are in a state of disrepair. The heavy equipment are used for some of their functions such as maintenance of secondary roads.

"Because the government does not have a lot of funding, measures should be taken to cut unnecessary costs," added Flores.

Hospital clinical consultant for lab renews contract

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

One of the physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center's internal medicine unit has extended her stay after renewing her employment contract with the hospital for another year.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Dr. Esther Kanayjorn has decided to renew her contract with the public hospital. Kanayjorn is also the clinical consultant for the hospital laboratory.

As the hospital's interim clinical consultant, Kanayjorn performs the duty of a laboratory director, a position that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid insists must be filled immediately or it will negatively impact CHC's accreditation with the national organization.

Babauta said that Kanayjorn's decision will greatly help the hospital meet the need for healthcare services on island.

Kanayjorn's contract is expiring on May 12, 2013. Two

days ago, the doctor informed management of her intention to continue working at CHC.

"The CHC staff and management really appreciate her decision to stay longer as well as her dedication and commitment in serving this hospital and the greater community," said Babauta, adding that the corporation's human resource department was instructed to immediately process Kanayjorn's renewal.

As of yesterday, many staff and employees at the hospital said they still have no new contracts. Babauta earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that these employees' contracts were automatically renewed under same terms and conditions.

When asked if Kanayjorn will be renewed under the same terms and conditions of her original contract, Babauta said that some specifics will be discussed and finalized with the physician.

Saipan Tribune learned that many employees, mostly doctors, have already been issued new contracts that show some rate adjustments to reflect their

previous housing allowance. This housing benefit is provided to those who were recruited from off-island.

According to Babauta, the corporation currently has 27 physicians, including two doctors at the Rota Health Center. These physicians are mostly full time. Recruitment, he said, remains ongoing for other physician positions.

Earlier this month, director for Medical Affairs Dr. Sherleen Osman disclosed that 14 doctors resigned last year and only one was replaced.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores joins Gov. Eloy S. Inos and other officials in walking up the stairs leading to the new viewing deck of Mount Tapochao following Thursday's ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the completion of the Mt. Tapochao rehabilitation project.

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Nuclear plant development deal hinges on \$250M financing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A 20-year “green nuclear power plant development agreement” that former governor Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed with Virginia-based Global Energy Corp. last year hinges on GEC’s showing of evidence of at least \$250 million in financing within two years from June 2012 or approval by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, whichever comes later.

If the CNMI determines that the \$250 million in credit capitalization or financing is not satisfactory, no further action is needed under the agreement, a copy of which was released yesterday.

“The validity of this Power Plant Development Agreement will terminate after two years from the date of this agreement,” it says.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who got a copy of the agreement only last week, wants the Office of the Attorney General to review it.

Global Energy Corp. chair and CEO Dr. Jay W. Khim signed the 14-page agreement on June 28, 2012. Fitial and Buckingham signed it on June 29, 2012.

Less than two months later, on Aug. 3, 2012, Fitial and Buckingham signed a separate no-bid, \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

Under the agreement with GEC, both the CNMI and GEC agree to build a 50MW green nuclear or so-called Genie power plant on Saipan subject to securing financing.

The project would have been the first of its kind—a hybrid fusion green power reactor producing up to 50MW of affordable power in excess of



CLEANUP TIME

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

An inmate helps clean the roof of a fire station near the Legislature on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, under supervision of Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections officers. The CNMI has seen a 32-percent increase in the number of inmates at the 500-bed Susupe prison complex, which can be viewed as either a good or bad thing.

50 years of uninterrupted base load power.

This power plant will be defined as “green” and safe since it will not involve enrichment or uranium-235 nor processing nor use of chain reactions nor the use of water in the reactor.

Under the agreement, the CNMI and CUC will buy 50MW electric power production or 438,000 megawatt-hours each year, for 20 years.

The CNMI and CUC will buy the power at 15 cents per kWh plus annual increases adjusted to U.S. national CPI inflation as mutually agreed upon.

It will be initiated as a pilot project and as a showcase for the CNMI, and will lower the cost of power per kilowatt hour.

The project should be completed and commissioned in approximately five years with site preparation, NRC process

and parts manufacturing starting immediately after financing becomes available.

The plant will be constructed on a build-operate-transfer basis with an estimated construction cost of \$250 million.

The CNMI shall identify and lease real property of up to 50 acres for the GEC plant.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said yesterday

that the CNMI Energy Task Force is looking at nuclear energy and liquefied natural gas as the islands look at tapping alternative energy.

“I say it again, solar, wind and other alternative energy are okay to supplement the diesel power generator we have but cannot supplant it,” he said, echoing the need for a grid integration study.

Herman Sablan, local business partner for the California-based American Capital Energy Co., said a grid integration study should have been done years ago. Sablan is also among those helping the promotion of GEC’s “green nuclear” technology in the CNMI and other parts of the world including Bangladesh where he just recently came from.

N. KOREA

From Page 1

as well as South Korea, said the statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency.

Seoul’s Defense Ministry said it hasn’t yet seen any suspicious North Korean military activity and that officials were analyzing the North’s warning. Analysts say a direct North Korean attack is extremely unlikely, especially during joint U.S.-South Korean military drills that end April 30, though there’s some worry about a provocation after the training wraps up.

Despite its successful long-range rocket launch in December, most experts believe North Korea is years from developing a genuine inter-continental ballistic missile that could strike the continental United States.

Hawaii and Guam would also be outside the range of its medium-range missiles, which would be capable, however, of striking U.S. military bases in South Korea and Japan.

The supreme command announcement came days after the South Korean and U.S. militaries signed a new pact, providing for a joint military response to even low-level provocative ac-

tion by North Korea.

While existing agreements provide for U.S. engagement in the event of a full-scale conflict, the new protocol addresses the response to a limited provocation such as an isolated incident of cross-border shelling.

It guarantees U.S. support for any South Korean retaliation and allows Seoul to request any additional U.S. military force it deems necessary.

North Korea, angry over routine U.S.-South Korean drills and recent punishing U.N. sanctions aimed at its Feb. 12 nuclear test, has vowed to launch a nuclear strike against the United States and repeated its nearly two-decade old threat to reduce Seoul to a “sea of fire.”

On Tuesday, the North Korean army’s Supreme Command said it will take “practical military action” to protect national sovereignty and its leadership in response to what it called U.S. and South Korean plots to attack.

North Korea’s field artillery forces—including strategic rocket and long-range artillery units that are “assigned to strike bases of the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops in the U.S. mainland and on Hawaii and Guam and other operational zones in the Pacific as well as all the en-

emy targets in South Korea and its vicinity”—will be placed on “the highest alert from this moment,” the statement said.

The North’s recent threats are seen partly as efforts to strengthen internal loyalty to young leader Kim Jong Un and to build up his military credentials.

Kim “needs to show he has the guts. The best way to do that is to use the military might that he commands,” said Lee Yoon-gyu, a North Korea expert at Korea National Defense University in Seoul. “This paves the way for greater praise for him if North Korea makes a provocation later and claims victory.”

Kim will eventually be compelled to do “something provocative to prove the threats weren’t empty,” Lee said.

The rival Koreas have had several bloody naval skirmishes in disputed Yellow Sea waters since 1999. In November 2010, a North Korean artillery strike on a South Korean island killed two marines and two civilians. A suspected North Korean torpedo sank a South Korean warship earlier that same year, killing 46 South Korean sailors. North Korea denies the warship sinking. (*Associated Press/Agence France Presse*)

WORKERS

From Page 1

in stone and foreign workers are urged not to raise their hopes.

Meanwhile, bipartisan groups in the U.S. House and Senate have been meeting for weeks to craft a comprehensive immigration legislation.

“I can say the meetings were encouraging. I can say that I think progress is being made,” Sablan told reporters yesterday.

The delegate said he is “cautiously optimistic.”

“However, until we see a bill that includes the Northern Marianas language, I must caution against being too hopeful,” he added.

Sablan said he has been meeting with members of both chambers and the Obama administration. These meetings were intended to offer information and provide an explanation about the immigration issue in the CNMI.

He reiterated that immigra-

tion is a difficult, controversial, and very emotional matter for a lot of people.

“Negotiations continue on the tough issues and an agreement among the parties is needed before they can finish writing a bill that is likely to be bulky, addressing all aspects of the country’s complex immigration laws,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Bicol Association in the Northern Mariana Islands asked Sablan, Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) to support a change in status from a CW-1 or CW-2 to a proposed “lawful prospective immigrant” status and then to LPR, which is a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

Other worker groups also sent letters to these officials.

Rene Reyes, founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said yesterday that their group supports pathway to U.S. citizenship for long-term foreign workers, especially now that

President Barack Obama wants the issue addressed and Inos has an open mind on the issue.

“Now is the time to find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants that still see America as the land of opportunity,” Reyes said.

All these come at a time when the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program is ending on Dec. 31, 2014, but Sablan said he does not see any reason why the U.S. Department of Labor would not grant a five-year extension of this transitional period.

Obama said on Monday he expects the U.S. Senate to take significant action on the immigration issue by April.

“I expect a bill to be put forward. I expect the debate to begin next month. I want to sign that bill into law as soon as possible,” Obama said at a naturalization ceremony at the White House.

Sablan said yesterday he’s hoping the bill will be signed into law this year.

JUDGE

From Page 1

11-page order that granted the operators’ motion for summary judgment.

The DPL letters prohibited marine sports operators from picking up customers from Managaha and taking them on water sports activities such as banana boat rides and parasailing. DPL insists that Tasi Tours & Transportation, as the sole authorized concessionaire on Managaha, is the only company allowed to do so.

Camacho said, however, that the meaning of the contested language in the 1993 DPL regulation is not self-evident and that the letters interpret the regulation.

Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc. are suing DPL to invalidate the department’s “rule” that prohibits them from picking up from Managaha customers with whom they have made prior arrangements.

Tasi Tours & Transportation intervened in the lawsuit as a

defendant.

On July 19, 2012, Camacho granted a preliminary injunction prohibiting DPL from enforcing its interpretation of the 1993 regulation.

The 1993 regulation and the concession agreement between DPL and Tasi Tours both contain language regarding the scope of Tasi Tours’ exclusive concession.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said the petitioners have demonstrated that the December letter constitutes rulemaking because it interprets the 1993 regulation.

Camacho said the June letter also interprets the 1993 regulation and is therefore a rule.

The June letter was written by then acting DPL secretary Pedro Itibus.

Camacho said the June letter expresses the view of the agency regarding certain portions of the concession agreement with Tasi Tours.

Attached to the letter, Camacho said, was a press release to the general public about the same subject, also on DPL letterhead and signed by the acting secretary.

Consequently, the judge pointed out, there is no question that this is an agency statement.

He determined that the letter falls squarely within the definition of rulemaking because it implements an agency policy of enforcement.

Camacho said the June letter has the practical effect of interpreting agency regulations, and it does not fall under any exception, therefore it is a rule within the meaning of the Administrative Procedure Act.

“As a result DPL was required to follow appropriate administrative procedures,” the judge said.

Camacho agreed with the operators that DPL failed to follow agency procedures for rulemaking or for promulgating regulations prior to issuing the December and June letters.

“As a result, the rule announced in the December letter is invalid,” Camacho said.

The judge said there is no evidence in the record that DPL published the letters in the *Commonwealth Register*, gained the approval of the attorney general, or filed with the Registrar of Corporations and the governor.

Committee chair says Babauta got fair rating from staff

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta got an overall "fair rating" from corporation employees, according to corporation board trustee Pedro Dela Cruz, who chairs the special panel that evaluated the CEO.

He said the board's decision

last week not to renew Babauta's employment contract was based largely on the result of their interview with Babauta and his self-evaluation.

Dela Cruz said the CEO's non-renewal was also based on the assessment of board members and not just on the employees' survey, which accounted for only 10 percent of the overall criteria set by the panel for

the evaluation.

Saipan Tribune learned that 332 of the corporation's 545 employees took part in the survey. Saipan had 270 respondents while Tinian and Rota had 62 respondents altogether. A total of 213 opted not to participate in the survey.

Of the 332 that participated, 22 survey forms (5 percent) were found faulty and not counted.

Dela Cruz said that 21 personnel rated Babauta's performance as "outstanding," 23 said that Babauta is "highly effective," 84 staff rated him "effective," and 118 people said he "needs improvement."

In the comments section of the survey form, among the general remarks of personnel states that Babauta is "almost invisible" at the facility and keeps employ-

ees in the dark about important issues and information, Dela Cruz said. Other comments also recognized the efforts and progress made under Babauta's leadership.

Based on the survey result, Dela Cruz said that many staff are sympathetic to the CEO. However, he pointed out that many personnel were not aware of the board's discovery of unpaid personnel allotments such as local taxes, Medicare, and Social Security.

Dela Cruz believes that if the survey was done after these discoveries, a different result would have surfaced.

Saipan Tribune learned that Babauta's performance was evaluated based of his interview and board members' assessment (60 percent), the result of the corporate officers' evaluation (30 percent), and the employees' survey (10 percent).

Babauta is expected to stay on until the end of his contract on July 9.

BOE chair urges business rate for PSS utilities

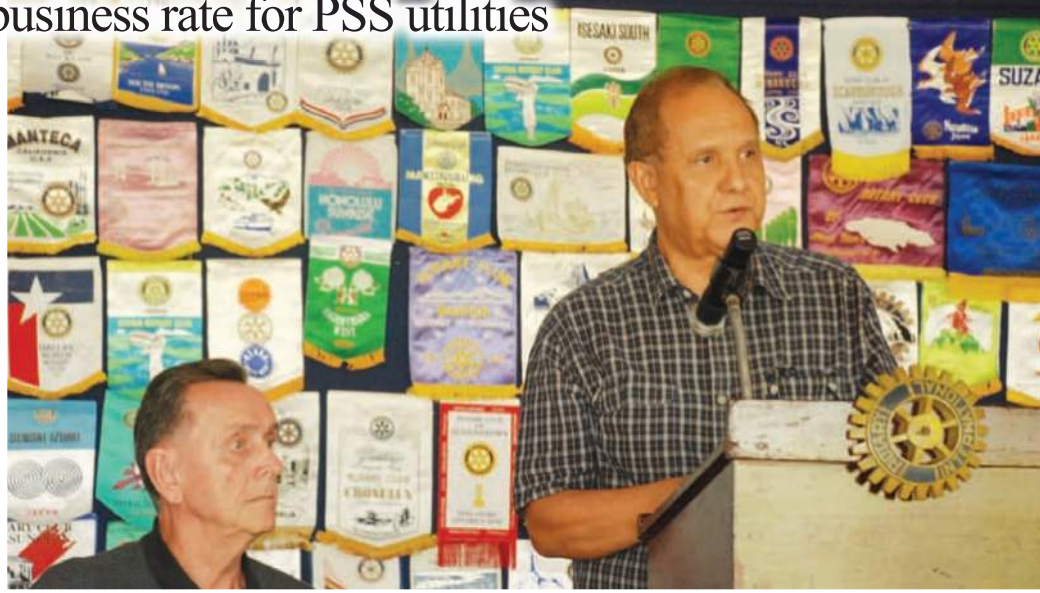
By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the CNMI State Board of Education said yesterday that utilities continue to be one of their bigger challenges and would like the Public School System to pay the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. using the business rate as a means to lower public schools' utility costs.

Herman T. Guerrero, guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan, also wants CUC to eliminate late fees on their late payments.

Guerrero said that PSS is charged by CUC using the government rate, resulting in the agency paying close to \$4 million every year.

As part of its efforts to reduce its utility bills, PSS—including the central office and classrooms in public schools—has



CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, right, delivers his remarks at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting on Tuesday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. With him is Rotary president Pete Shilling.

implemented a policy wherein air-conditioning units are turned on starting at 10am.

"PSS is not a revenue-generating agency and therefore needs assistance to address this

issue," Guerrero told Rotarians.

According to Guerrero, their utility expenses are among their point of contention on the need for a higher budget.

At present, PSS is given

\$31.1 million by the local government plus \$28.9 million in federal funding. Because of the across-the-board sequestration by the federal government, PSS will lose \$3.6 million of its fed-

eral funds, said Guerrero.

He noted that the CNMI spends about \$5,500 per student—a lower amount compared to the national average of almost \$11,000.

"We urge our elected leaders, from the executive to the legislative branch, to address some of our concerns. One of them is to try and support a higher budget for PSS," Guerrero said.

While an increase in appropriation might be difficult considering the island economy, Guerrero said PSS has long been "doing more with less" which he said may have prompted the administration not to give it more money. "It doesn't make sense," he added.

PSS, said Guerrero, is the agency mandated to provide free, compulsory public education for all children in the CNMI.

Some 10,646 students are currently enrolled with PSS in its elementary, junior high, and high school campuses on

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The number also includes students at Head Start Centers and the Early Intervention Program.

Guerrero said they presently have a 30:1 student-teacher ratio, which he said is "a little bit too high" and poses safety concerns and exhaustion or burnout among teachers.

Guerrero, who was a teacher at Hopwood Jr. High School, disclosed that about 700 PSS teachers and staff are paid out of local funds, while 300 are paid through federal monies.

This year, Guerrero added, BOE will mark its 25th anniversary in the community. "We're asking our leaders and stakeholders to join us in celebrating this occasion."

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Police tag 2 suspects in burglary at apartment of ballerinas

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police have already identified two suspects in the burglary at an apartment unit in Koblerville that victimized visiting Russian ballerinas.

Police officer Jason Tarkong also confirmed yesterday that most of the stolen items were recovered by police officers during a recent follow-up operation.

As of press time yesterday, a source disclosed that one of two suspects has already been served with an arrest warrant.

Tarkong said he was conducting bike patrol training for Department of Public Safety personnel at the American Memorial Park when Glushko Academy of Arts instructor Anna Glushko approached and told him about a burglary that happened at an apartment unit

in Koblerville where the visiting ballerinas were staying.

Tarkong said he immediately relayed the information to his co-instructor, police officer Jesse Dubrall, since the latter and other bike trainees are members of the Department of Public Safety's Thief Apprehension Select Coalition.

Dubrall and DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau commander Jeffrey Olopai took over the in-

vestigation.

"Within 24 hours we recovered most of the items," Tarkong said.

The five Russian ballerinas reportedly lost laptops, cell phones, cameras, cash, and other items to the burglars.

At the time of *Saipan Tribune's* interview with Tarkong yesterday noon, investigators were still wrapping up the investigation against the two suspects.

Property owner seeks change to zoning use permit

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Office will look into a request to remove the parking lot requirement for a conditional use permit issued to a religious organization.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said Thursday that they received the request on March 11 from Felipe Q. Atalig.

Atalig's son owns a property behind the Music And store along Beach Road in Susupe, where the Missions Connection Ministry operates a church.

The faith-based organization was issued a conditional use

permit to operate the church in the area zoned as Village Residential, provided that Missions Connection Ministry have a designated parking area nearby and a walkway for churchgoers.

In his letter to Zoning board chair Diego C. Blanco, Atalig said that the lot designated for the church's parking space will be made available for the government or other interested parties who want to develop the property.

"My son Ron is in dire need to dispose his property to meet his other obligations in the mainland," Atalig wrote Blanco.

Atalig noted that he previously

wrote to the Zoning office, expressing his doubts that the church has the resources and capability to develop the parking space.

"To date, still nothing has been done as required by the permit," he said.

Atalig also pointed out that a conditional use permit expires "after 360 days unless the permit is exercised."

Ogumoro informed the board about Atalig's request in their March 21 meeting, during which the board emphasized that the parking area was a basis for the approval of the conditional use permit.

Board vice chair Herman P.

Sablan warned that removing the parking requirement might cause future problems for the church and nearby property owners since churchgoers might end up parking their vehicles along the road, blocking any right of way.

Ogumoro also told the board that an expiration date for a conditional use permit only applies if the approved use is no longer in operation. Since Missions Connection Ministry continues to operate, the permit is still valid, she said.

The board tasked Ogumoro to look into the matter, including why Missions Connection Ministry was unable to develop the designated lot for parking space.

Family rescued while kayaking near Maui

HONOLULU—A group of U.S. Coast Guard when weather kayakers was rescued by the took a turn for the worse approxi-

mately three miles off the coast of Wailea, Maui, Saturday.

Coast Guard Station Maui was notified by a vessel operator in the area that four kayakers, one adult and three children, were being blown toward the open sea by approximately 25mph winds. Sea conditions worsened to swells of three to four feet.

A 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew from Coast Guard Station Maui was conducting training in the area and diverted to the scene. All four kayakers and their kayaks were picked up and taken to shore at 2pm. The kayakers

were wearing life jackets and uninjured.

The Coast Guard advises all mariners to check weather conditions prior to getting underway. Individuals unfamiliar with an area are encouraged to speak with lifeguards before entering unfamiliar water in order to become familiar with local weather and ocean hazards.

Mariners are also urged to file a float plan with a responsible friend, family member or harbor master. A float plan should include the projected course, time of departure, arrival and return which will provide responders with vital information in the case of an emergency. *(USCG)*

Early registration urged for Pacific hold'em tournament

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Individuals interested to participate in the upcoming 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament are urged to sign up early as there would be no registration at the venue.

Laila Y. Boyer, vice president of Rotary Club of Saipan, which is organizing the tournament, explained in Tuesday's meeting that the early registration aims to facilitate logistics and preparation for the event.

Boyer said interest in the tournament is picking up, with about 50 players from Saipan, Guam, and other neighboring island nations already registered.

"We're going to push it further," Boyer told Rotarians, adding that they are looking at a minimum of 100 players and a limit of 150 players.

The inaugural tournament

is hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan and is scheduled on April 20.

The 2013 Pacific Hold'em Tournament will have a \$200 buy-in per player. Rotarians and other volunteers will serve as dealers during the event. Tournament players will be narrowed down to the final nine tables, from which the champion will be selected.

The tournament champion will win the \$12,000 prize pool and the 2013 Pacific Hold'em Champion bracelet.

The event is also sponsored by Power 99, Marpac, Century Hotel, and Microl Toyota.

The fundraising event aims to raise some \$30,000 for the group's various community projects.

To register or for more information, visit www.saipanrotary.com or email saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Signup deadline for non-insured ornamental nursery producers

BARRIGADA, Guam—Tom Camacho, county executive director, reminds producers that the deadline is May 1, 2013, for the Non-Insured Disaster Assistance Program coverage on 2014 Ornamental Nursery Production.

The NAP program is designed to cover losses due to damaging tropical storms and typhoons. The program covers loss of value in excess of 50 percent of the total value. The administrative fee per policy is \$250 per crop, per producer with a \$750 cap per county. NAP coverage for ornamental nursery begins on June 1. The administrative fee is non refundable.

"Producers interested in obtaining NAP on their 2014 non-insurable crop acreage, should contact their local USDA Service Center before May 1st to complete an application," said Camacho.

"Producers who currently have NAP coverage or who are interested in coverage need to keep accurate records of their inventory and provide monthly inventories to the Farm Service Agency annually, and promptly notify FSA whenever losses occur" said Camacho.

The deadline also applies to producers who have a 2013 policy that expires on May 30th and want to renew their coverage for the same value-loss crops in 2014.

Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office to obtain NAP coverage or for additional information on the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program before the May 1, 2013 deadline.

For more information about disaster programs implemented by FSA, visit www.fsa.usda.gov. *(USDA)*

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-095**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROPOSED CHALAN KANOA HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, SAIPAN, CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID/PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BID/PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0419
-v-	FIRST
JOHN KITALONG SIKYANG and MERCEDES JONES CASTRO, Defendants.	AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 045 A 12, situated in As Matuis, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 944 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 002, dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1670, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0261
-v-	FIRST
DIEGO A. SASAMOTO and ANICIA S. SASAMOTO, Defendants.	AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 736, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4182, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-096**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT ON THE STATE INVENTORY SYSTEM, PHASE I, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MS. LAURA T. OGUMORO**, ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA AT (670) 664-2574/76, OR FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 12, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN A BID/PROPOSAL IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH. ALL BID/PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-097**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DCCA/HPO-099**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 23, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSULTING HISTORIAN SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AFTER MARCH 27, 2013 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

FTA excludes budget for school bus operations, maintenance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's final. Public schools will not be getting any funds from the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority to procure new buses and to maintain its fleet following disclosure that funding for this purpose is not authorized under Federal Transit Administration grants.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., asked COTA administrator Thomas J. Camacho in August last year for \$350,000 for the operation of school transportation services, citing Section 4 of Public Law 17-43, which requires COTA to include the funding requirements of PSS bus systems in the annual FTA grant application since PSS serves over 95 percent of daily public bus ridership.

But according to Camacho, "there is nothing in this Act that requires COTA to include in its annual FTA budget request for school bus operations or maintenance."

Camacho also pointed out that Sablan's request is not consistent with Section 4 of the Transit Act, which states, "The Legislature shall appropriate funds necessary to meet the 20 percent matching fund requirement, if any, at such time that the Commonwealth is required to match federal funds."

Camacho added that recipients of FTA grants cannot provide transportation for students and school personnel if that transportation excludes the general public or competes with private school bus operators.

This fact, he said, was also clarified by FTA Region IX, which stated that subsection 5323(f) regarding school bus transportation allows FTA to assess fines and withhold grant funds if public transportation agencies violate the narrowly defined conditions under which public transportation providers can provide school bus transportation.

What COTA can do

Given the prohibitions to fund school bus operations, equipment, and maintenance, Camacho said COTA can still help public schools.

COTA is developing the CNMI Transportation Master Plan, which will include future fixed-route system.

COTA, Camacho said, may provide more frequent service on an existing route to accommodate increasing student ridership before and after school. Furthermore, COTA may also alter route paths to accommodate the needs of school students by making minimum route alterations from route

paths to drop off and pick up students at stops located on school grounds or in close proximity to the schools.

"A transportation cost-benefit analysis or fiscal impact study

should determine how much PSS saves in school bus operations and maintenance expenses when student utilize public transportation to school and back home," added Camacho.

PSS has been directly applying and receiving FTA grants since 1990s with an average of \$1.1 million each fiscal year before COTA was established in May 2011. These monies were

used to procure school buses and vans for all 19 schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Portions of these awards were also allocated for vehicles' maintenance every year.

This school year, PSS has 17 school buses for Saipan schools and two each for Rota and Tinian schools. The last time PSS received an FTA grant was in fiscal year 2011.



Camacho

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Island Snapshots



NEXT TOP MODELS

The winners of the 2013 Marianas Next Top Model last Saturday at Hard Rock Cafe Saipan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

2013 Marianas Next Top Model female winner Jacqueline Maglonzo reacts after being named the winner.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

2013 Marianas Next Top Model male winner John John Capuyon.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Event organizer Sharmaine Casquero is flanked by 2013 Marianas Next Top Model winners Jacqueline Maglonzo and John John Capuyon.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Candidate no. 5 accepts the Best in Catwalk award.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Female candidates flaunt their gowns made of recycled materials.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Khara Atalig wins the Best in Recycle Wear.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Candidate no. 7 is first runner up.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 27, 2004

House backs construction of new Legislature bldg.

ROTA-The House of Representatives concurred yesterday with the Senate's plan to build a brand new facility for the Legislative Branch through the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 14-5. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial vowed to appoint next week two members from the lower chamber to participate in the Legislature Building Project Committee, which will be tasked to oversee the intent of SJR 14-5. The Senate on Tuesday officially declared the need for a new Legislature building, citing the poor and unsafe structural condition of the 40-year-old facility that lawmakers are using.

CPA seeks terminal fee talks with PUTC

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will soon sit down with the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications to discuss the CPA's proposed Passenger Facility Charge that is hoped to beef up airport revenues. CPA executive director Carlos Salas told the authority's board of directors during its membership meeting Friday morning at the Saipan Seaport that it would be better to sit down with PUTC chair Timothy Villagomez to fully explain the CPA's reason for imposing the new fee. The proposal seeks to impose a \$4.50 fee on all outbound passengers at CNMI airports. CPA hopes to implement the new fee by the end of the year.

Mar. 27, 2005

EPA to allocate \$300K for the CNMI's beaches

The Northern Mariana Islands may be able to tap into the recently approved \$9.92 million grants released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its 2005 Water Quality Monitoring program that monitors the nation's beaches across the United States and its territories. In a notice released Friday, the EPA disclosed that the CNMI may be eligible to receive at least \$303,000 from its Coastal and Great Lakes program that is aimed at monitoring the water quality. The allocation also hopes to help states and territories when water quality problems exist. According to Stacie Findon of the USEPA, the federal agency would release \$9.92 million in grants that would be distributed to 35 states and territories that would include the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

\$800K for health test of residents approved

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has approved a Saipan local bill appropriating \$800,000 for the health examination of residents who have been exposed to environmental pollutants. The governor approved House Local Bill 14-50, authored by Rep. Clyde Norita, which mandates the Department of Public Health to conduct health tests among residents who reside around or near the former U.S. military fuel farms. In particular, the measure identified the residents living in Tanapag, As Lito, Koblerville, and lower Dandan. "The purpose of the health examination is to detect the presence of persistent organic pollutants or chemicals of concern, and to find ways to correct these concerns," said Babauta.

Mar. 27, 2006

PSS enrollment projected to rise 23 percent by 2012

Enrollment in public schools is projected to increase by 2,500 students from 2005 to 2012, prompting the immediate need for more school facilities. According to the House of Representatives, the Public School System's enrollment is expected to increase by approximately 357 students annually. This means that the count of kindergarten to 12th grade students would increase from the year 2005 level of 10,946, to 13,346 by 2012. The projection represents an average growth of 23 percent over the next seven years or an annual average increase of 3.3 percent.

Taga Air to invest \$1M for new Tinian hangar

Taga Air Charter Services plans to invest some \$1 million for a new hangar within the West Tinian International Airport, in line with plans to acquire additional aircraft and eventually transform itself into an international airline. Taga Air president Alfred Yue said the move is part of its commitment to develop Tinian as a tourist destination, as casino investors line up for their respective multi-million-dollar ventures on the island. Taga Air is affiliated with Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. In a letter to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Lee Cabrera, Yue said Taga Air will soon secure the necessary licenses to operate bigger aircraft, including Boeing 757 and Airbus aircraft.

Washington returns from multi-mission deployment

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Washington*, a 110-foot patrol boat, recently returned from a patrol to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

During their 15-day deployment, the *Washington's* crew participated in Operation Rai Balang, a regional fisheries operation between Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic Of Marshall Islands.

Patrol boats from each country in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Forum Fisheries Agency covered over 3.4 million nautical miles of ocean to detect, deter, and prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing across the region.

The *Washington* crew also had the chance to engage the community in the Federated States of Micronesia, deliver humanitarian supplies at several port calls, and provide support to the Army Civil Action Team stationed in Palau.

Boating safety and humanitarian assistance

The *Washington* conducted boating safety awareness classes at each port call and delivered humanitarian supplies to Ulithi Atoll and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.

While in Yap, the crew also participated in the annual Yap Day celebration and hosted



Side boys from Coast Guard cutter *Washington* stand at the ready to welcome Ambassador Reed-Rowe in Koror, Palau.

U.S. ambassador to FSM Doria Rosen on board.

Living marine resource enforcement

Once in Palauan waters, the *Washington* officially began their support of Operation Rai Balang. As part of this operation, the *Washington* patrolled Palau's exclusive economic zone and boarded three fishing vessels with a Palauan ship rider. During regional fisheries operations, *Washington* embarks ship riders from each Pa-

cific Island Countries' maritime law enforcement agency to lead joint boardings and ensure compliance with all applicable laws of the exclusive economic zone being patrolled.

"These joint operations are highly important because the preservation of fish stocks is a regionally shared concern," said Lt. Nate MacKenzie, *Washington's* commanding officer. "Fish don't respect boundaries or borders, so it is important we all work together to protect these vital marine resources."

Search and rescue

Washington also assisted in the rescue of 10 people in the water from an overturned 60-foot canoe 103 miles northeast of Palau. The 695-foot container vessel, the *Hyundai Unity*, was first to arrive on scene and safely rescue all 10 crew members. *Washington* rendezvoused with the merchant vessel shortly afterward and transferred the canoeists to the cutter. Upon return to Palau, *Washington* was met by anxious families and the Palauan Vice President on the pier to welcome them home.



Crew from the Coast Guard cutter *Washington* deliver humanitarian supplies to awaiting small boats from Ulithi Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia.

"Being able to work with the *Hyundai Unity* to get everyone out of the water and safely back to Palau was a great experience," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Ned Timmons. "Seeing all the families and loved ones on the pier made the trip for me. Overall, this case was really rewarding."

Of the patrol, Lt. MacKenzie noted, "*Washington* accom-

plished a lot in the past 15 days. However, we could not have done it without the great partnerships we have throughout this region. The real importance of these patrols is to strengthen those partnerships and demonstrate that the Coast Guard is committed to being a team player in the ongoing effort to keep the Pacific safe and secure." (USCG)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 20th birthday to Mart Camacho Sablan who is celebrating another great year today, March 27, 2013! May success shine its light over you like sunshine. May love spread its color all over you like the rainbow. May all that you have dreamt of come true. Happy birthday Mart and may that lovely smile of yours stay on your face forever. We wish you luck, happiness, good health, and many more birthdays to come. God bless you! With so much love coming your way from Princess Francine L. Santos, my parents, and my siblings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Granpa Celso! Wishing you many more birthdays to come. Enjoy your day! Greetings come from Myrna, Julianne, and Julia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 3rd birthday to our wonderful daughter, Rheanna Faith A. Delos Reyes. Wishing you the best on your special day. We love you! Love, Mommy, Daddy, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities special meeting scheduled for April 2, 2013 is hereby cancelled. All DD Council's matters will be address at the general membership meeting in April 2013.

Thank you.

/s/ **Thomas J. Camacho**
Chairman, CDD



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Iraq war was a mistake from the beginning

One never would have thought, when this country was raining “shock and awe” on Baghdad, that politicians would have little to say about the 10th anniversary of the war, which today seems more in remission than over.

In fact, Agence France-Presse reports that more than 200 people have been killed in Iraq this month as sectarian violence continues. A rash of car bombings, likely linked to last week’s anniversary of the invasion, left at least 40 Iraqis dead and dozens wounded. The peace that the war was supposed to bring remains missing in action.

Most Americans no longer care, polls show. They believe this nation paid too high a price—4,500 soldiers killed, 30,000 wounded, more than \$2 trillion in expenditures—to fight a war whose goal kept changing, and that it received little in return, certainly not the Middle East stability that in many respects seems more remote than in 2003.

Some foreign policy analysts point out that while toppling the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein was the right thing to do, the weakening of Iraq has allowed its bitter enemy Iran to pursue its ambition to become a regional power.

That shouldn’t have been hard to envision 10 years ago, but U.S. leaders didn’t let that possibility change their mind about attacking Iraq. In fact, former Vice President Dick Cheney still insists that the Bush administration made the right decision. “If I had to do it all over again, I’d do it in a minute,” he recently told the producers of a documentary being made about him, titled “The World According to Dick Cheney.”

The war became unpopular, but “it was more important to be successful than it was to be loved,” Cheney said. “If you want to be loved, go and be a movie star.” He also still insists that Iraq tried to buy uranium from Niger to make weapons of mass destruction, even though the allegation has been proved false. “The only thing (Niger) had to import was uranium and goats,” Cheney said. “Iraq had plenty of goats.”

Cheney’s former boss had the good sense not to attempt such a vociferous defense of the indefensible. George W. Bush has remained silent about the anniversary. Had he granted an interview, he no doubt would have been asked not only about his wrong assumption on WMD, but also why he shifted the military focus to Iraq even though al-Qaida was based in Afghanistan. Of course, the terrorists did eventually go to Iraq to take advantage of the instability the war created.

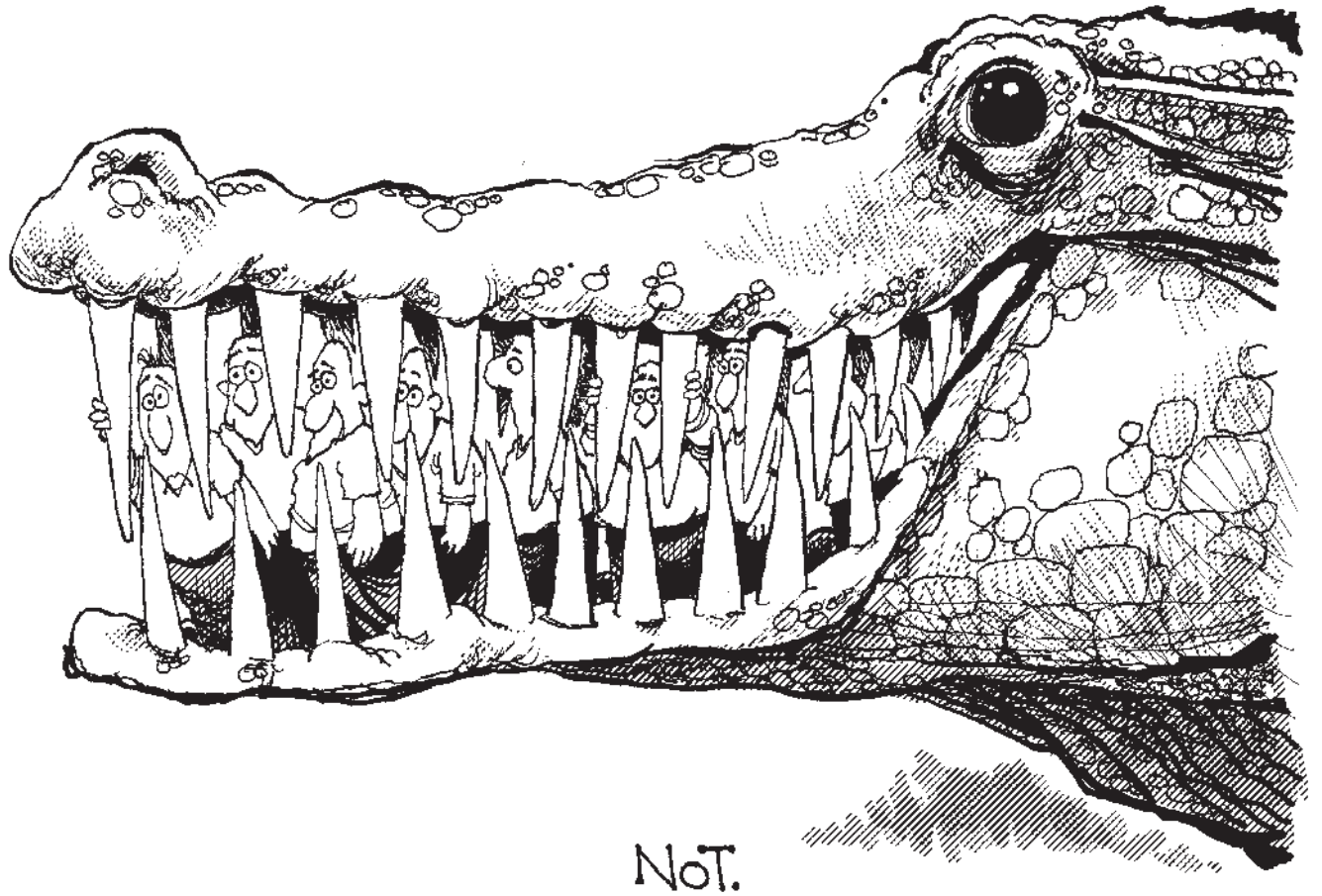
Ten years after the Iraq war began, and 15 months after it was declared over for this country, no one can call it a success. Daily life in Iraq remains a battle. The Sunni minority that dominated during Saddam’s reign now struggles under the Shiite government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who not only has ties to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but is also said to be providing aid to embattled Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Does it sound like Maliki is grateful to the United States for its fight to free Iraq from a despot?

Despite what Cheney says, if this country had to do it over again, it certainly should not travel the same course that led to the bombing of Baghdad. If nothing else, the Iraq war should have taught this nation that you don’t jump into mortal combat before you know for certain what and whom you’re fighting for.

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BENGAZI SURVIVORS and the MOST OPEN WHITE HOUSE in HISTORY...



Fine speech by Obama, but successful?

President Obama gave a great speech in Jerusalem last week.

He promised again to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran, and pledged undying moral and military support for the Jewish state. Only then did he urge Israelis not to forsake efforts to negotiate peace with the Palestinians. His rhetoric was so powerful that it elicited repeated cheers from about 1,000 Israeli students in the audience.

So, now what?

One can’t help but recall that Obama also gave a great speech to students in Cairo in 2009, aimed at winning Muslim hearts and minds. That speech is best remembered for failing to produce anything concrete. Can we hope for something more substantial to result from the president’s wooing of Israeli Jews?

The answer depends on how one reads Obama’s visit. If you expect concrete results from his impassioned call for peace with the Palestinians, the speech is likely to be a letdown. But if you look elsewhere for results, you could call it a success.

No question, Obama’s prime goal was to reverse the mistaken belief among Israelis that he is hostile to their country. Given his powerful endorsement of Zionism and American ties with Israel, he probably succeeded, even with the Israeli right wing.

Winning rave public notices helped advance Obama’s second goal: improving relations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A better level of trust between the men is crucial to persuading Bibi to allow more time for “tough” U.S. diplomacy with Iran rather than launching a premature Israeli attack on Tehran’s nuclear program. Here, too, there were clear signs of success.

Ditto for Obama’s efforts to get both sides on the same page in dealing with the violence in Syria. Toward that end, Obama scored a diplomatic triumph by brokering an apology from Netanyahu for Israeli forces’ 2010 killing of nine Turks on the Gaza-bound ship Mavi Marmara. The killings froze relations between Israel and Turkey, and a thaw is crucial to devising a regional strategy for dealing with the Syrian regime.

But when it comes to reviving peace talks, Obama’s fine words are likely to produce minimal results. There are clear signs that he recognizes this.

One sign is that he chose to give the speech to Israeli students rather than the Knesset. No doubt Obama recognized that his appeal for progress on negotiations with the Palestinians would be met with

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



hostility, if not boos, from many members of Israel’s right wing.

The president admitted that the chaotic situation in the Arab world provides a dicey backdrop for peace talks. He also knows that the Palestinian leadership is weak and divided, and that Netanyahu’s new coalition government is largely hostile to the idea of two states.

Some key Israeli ministers are strong advocates of increased Jewish settlement on the West Bank—or even its annexation—and have said they will pursue even more construction than in the past. Recognizing this reality, Obama dropped his insistence on a settlement freeze as a precondition for talks, which makes it hard for the Palestinians to sign on.

Given these realities, the president’s plea for renewed talks, while moving and trenchant, was almost wistful. In appealing to the next generation—the students—he quoted the hawkish former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon: “It is impossible to have a Jewish, democratic state (and) at the same time to control all of Eretz Israel”—that is, historic Israel, which includes the Palestinian West Bank.

He urged these young people—and through them the wider public—to consider the world through the eyes of ordinary Palestinians. While insisting that Palestinians recognize Israel as a Jewish state, he stressed that continued Jewish settlement on the West Bank makes it impossible to have a viable, contiguous Palestinian state.

But his effort to generate public pressure on Israeli leaders to engage in talks is likely to go nowhere. When it comes to Mideast peace, it has been leaders—Israeli and Palestinian, in the case of the Oslo talks; Israeli, Egyptian, and American in the Egypt peace talks—who led the way, encouraging their publics to follow. And the people-to-people contacts between Palestinians and Israelis that

See FINE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Telling ‘Our Story’

Telling “our story” is vital not only as entertainment but more so for the education of our children. What we believe happened in the past and the stories we highlight shade our present and influence our future.

The best stories not only have a moral angle (where good triumphs over evil) but engage us intellectually and emotionally too. Major events over the last 35 years are stories we could convey to our grandchildren.

Fast tracking 20 years ahead, what would you tell your grandchildren of our stories? Would you “tell it like it is” or swerve into mixing fact and fiction, hoping to avoid another painful reminder of a sore chapter in our developmental history? Would you honestly avoid the truth about the obvious lack of leadership that led to the first resignation of a governor who left behind egregious depravity for the multitude? Or would you skirt it?

Personally, I’ve begun my twilight years collecting legends of the islands in hopes of publishing a book for posterity in the vernacular. In other words, I’d like to “tell our stories” with all the enthusiastic vigor that comes with local punch lines that would otherwise lose their luster when told in English.

How easily I slip and slide in and out of writing in the vernacular while thinking in English, though the reverse is a lot easier. As I punch the keys “thinking” in Chamorro, I honestly look like a mental patient, laughing out loud alone. But a lot of it is humor with subtle moral messages one could discern in what’s told with all the trappings found in the vernacular.

But then good indigenous humor is great, especially these days when there’s a lot of tension in the air. One could see it spewing off like volcanic eruption on the hill. Don’t want any part of it.

Telling our children stories about the legends of these isles should ensure that they share it with others through the years. I’ve decided to write it down in paper in the vernacular for posterity.

Historic highs and lows

History would have panned out depicting the highs and lows of

our developmental history. The new beginning in 1978 graced with hope, the unprecedented investments of the late ’80s and the persistent crash thereafter. How would you convey these to your children?

Other forms of story telling are also found in the music written by local artists. Though a lot are non-original materials, messages in the written lyrics is itself a tale of, i.e., broken hearts, love that might have been but never were, in addition to fabricated cultural chants and dances. It’s dizzying the redundant use of the word “neni” (baby or sweetheart) found in most local lyrics to the extent where the abuser/singer ensures he’s the victim. Non sequitur!

The dire consequences of the economic disaster here are especially difficult on Tinian and Rota and should include truthful story telling. Let’s listen and pen down how folks had to buy rice in plastic zip lock bags and return to the traditional use of the indigenous fire stoves when shipment of liquid gas ceased. It should also include tales of how so many of the folks on the two islands had to return to basics. Even more importantly, how leadership has failed real opportunities for making a difference after spouting vacuous campaign trail promises.

It’s a sore and ugly chapter in our developmental history. I don’t particularly relish flipping through pages of personally documented egregious violations of law and trust beyond the “consent of the governed.” Interesting though the evolution of “self-government” and the protracted process involved in righting and protecting the rights of citizens to live under a government of laws.

Would you share your experiences dealing with the prohibitive cost of utilities, gas at the pump, how you lost the first family home as a result of joblessness; and other dire experiences in what was supposed to have been “better times”?

Gee! We have a lot to tell our children, our stories, told in vernacular. I dread the nagging fear of how we’ve lived in subterranean misery under an administration that completely lost its “true north” in what’s known as leadership. It never existed! It trashed “trust” of the multitude, soundly rebuked by their ouster by the multitude in the last midterm election. Governance simply said, “No mas.”

The 1 percent aren’t like the rest of us

Over the last two years, President Obama and Congress have put the country on track to reduce projected federal budget deficits by nearly \$4 trillion. Yet when that process began, in early 2011, only about 12 percent of Americans in Gallup polls cited federal debt as the nation’s most important problem. Two to three times as many cited unemployment and jobs as the biggest challenge facing the country.

So why did policymakers focus so intently on the deficit issue? One reason may be that the small minority that saw the deficit as the nation’s priority had more clout than the majority that didn’t.

We recently conducted a survey of top wealth-holders (with an average net worth of \$14 million) in the Chicago area, one of the first studies to systematically examine the political attitudes of wealthy Americans. Our research found that the biggest concern of this top 1 percent of wealth-holders was curbing budget deficits and government spending. When surveyed, they ranked those things as priorities three times as often as they did unemployment—and far more often than any other issue.

If the concerns of the wealthy carry special weight in government—as an increasing body of social scientific evidence suggests—such extreme differences between their views and those of other Americans could significantly skew policy away from what a majority of the country would prefer. Our Survey of Economically Successful Americans was an attempt to begin to shed light on both the viewpoints and the political reach of the very wealthy.

While we had no way to measure directly the political influence of those surveyed, they did report themselves to be highly active politically.

Two-thirds of the respondents had contributed money (averaging \$4,633) in the most recent presidential election, and fully one-fifth of them “bundled” contributions from others. About half recently initiated contact with a U.S. senator or representative, and nearly half (44 percent) of those contacts concerned matters of relatively narrow economic self-interest rather than broader national concerns. This kind of access to elected officials suggests an outsized influence in Washington.

On policy, it wasn’t just their ranking of budget deficits as the biggest concern that put wealthy respondents out of step with other Americans. They were also much less likely to favor raising taxes on high-income people, instead advocating that entitlement programs like Social Security and healthcare be cut to balance the budget. Large majorities of ordinary Americans oppose any substantial cuts to those programs.

While the wealthy favored more government spending on infrastructure, scientific research and aid to education, they leaned toward cutting nearly everything else. Even with education, they opposed things that most Americans favor, including spending to ensure that all children have access to good-quality public schools, expanding government programs to ensure that everyone who wants to go to college can do so, and investing more in worker retraining and education.

The wealthy opposed—while most Americans favor—instituting a system of national health insurance, raising the minimum wage to above poverty levels, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit and providing a “decent standard of living” for the unemployed. They were also against the federal government helping with or providing jobs for those who cannot find private employment.

Unlike most Americans, wealthy respondents opposed increased regulation of large corporations and raising the “cap” that exempts income above \$113,700 from the FICA payroll tax. And unlike most Americans, they oppose relying heavily on corporate taxes to raise revenue and oppose taxing the rich to redistribute wealth.

Some of the differences between the political views of the wealthy and other Americans may be explained by differences in the two groups’ economic experiences and self-interest. The wealthy are likely to have better information about the costs of government programs (for which they pay a lot of taxes) than about the benefits of those programs. They don’t usually have to rely on Social Security, for example, let alone food stamps or unemployment insurance.

Another possibility is that the wealthy—who tend to be highly educated, well informed and committed to charitable giving—seek the common good as they see it, and in fact know better than average Americans what sorts of policies would benefit us all. On the issue of federal deficits, for example, the public has come to see government debt as an increasingly important problem over the last two years, reducing the gulf between their views and those of the wealthy. Is that because the wealthy were ahead of the curve, or because their concern helped stimulate a steady drumbeat of deficit alarmism in the media and in Washington?

Our pilot study included a relatively small number of wealthy citizens, and they were all from a single metropolitan area. A larger-scale national study is needed to pin down more precisely the views of wealthy Americans about public policy. We need to understand how they formed the preferences they have, and how wealthy people from different regions, industries, and social backgrounds differ

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



But above our daily trials and tribulations, notice that whenever the economy takes a nosedive, we quickly return to farming and fishing? Isn’t there a message here? Must we not funnel more funds for agricultural and fisheries development with the view to bringing it up beyond conventional wisdom? Why spend more money on the fickle tourism industry, ignoring a proven sector since before WWII? Must retreat and recalibrate policies, *sayu*?

Weighing the future

There’s a huge lull punctured by the resignation of governor Benigno R. Fitial. The excitement of impeachment instantly evaporated on blades of grass one fine break of dawn.

The focus quickly shifted to longstanding major issues that require real time solutions. It includes creative investments capable of scaffolding the Fund, owed some \$375 million. The NMI pays some \$65 million to retirees annually. Against the tide in the reduction of revenue generation, this would be a woefully steep and troubling obligation, right?

Imagine if this amount ceases recycling in the local economy. Would not revenue generation slide way below the projected \$114 million for this fiscal year? The ripple effects would be humongous and includes consumers not being able to pay for utilities. By then, this island would constantly experience brownouts, *di ba*?

Public expectations are high, though the performance to meet it at least half decent remains blurred in the sea of debts that drags everything down. It calls for leadership!

By **BENJAMIN I. PAGE**
and **LARRY M. BARTELS**
Los Angeles Times



Benjamin I. Page is a political science professor at Northwestern University and co-author of Class War? What Americans Really Think About Economic Inequality. Larry M. Bartels is a political science professor at Vanderbilt University and author of Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

in their political views and behavior. We also need to understand more about their political clout.

Our initial results suggest the wealthy have very different ideas than other Americans on a variety of policy issues. If their influence is far greater than that of ordinary people, what does that mean for American democracy?

FINE

From Page 10

once assisted the process have virtually ended.

True, Obama has asked Secretary of State John Kerry to try to renew the peace process. He also suggested that his own 2011 proposal to focus first on borders and security be the basis for talks. But negotiating borders implies the need to remove Jewish settlements scattered beyond those borders—a concept that’s anathema to key members of Bibi’s governing coalition.






So consider Obama’s speech moving, inspiring, and correct in its arguments that an end to serious peace negotiations is dangerous to Israel. And consider him correct in arguing that continued Jewish settlement will eventually rule out even the possibility of a viable Palestinian state.

Yet by appealing to public opinion rather than to Israeli politicians, Obama indicated that he knows there is scant chance for serious negotiations—and is unlikely to pressure the two parties. That gives his eloquent rhetoric a pro forma quality, as if it is merely a cover for the real focus of his trip: Syria, Iran, and a reset of relations with Israelis. Most likely, this speech will be recalled, like the one in Cairo, as another missed chance for positive change.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80

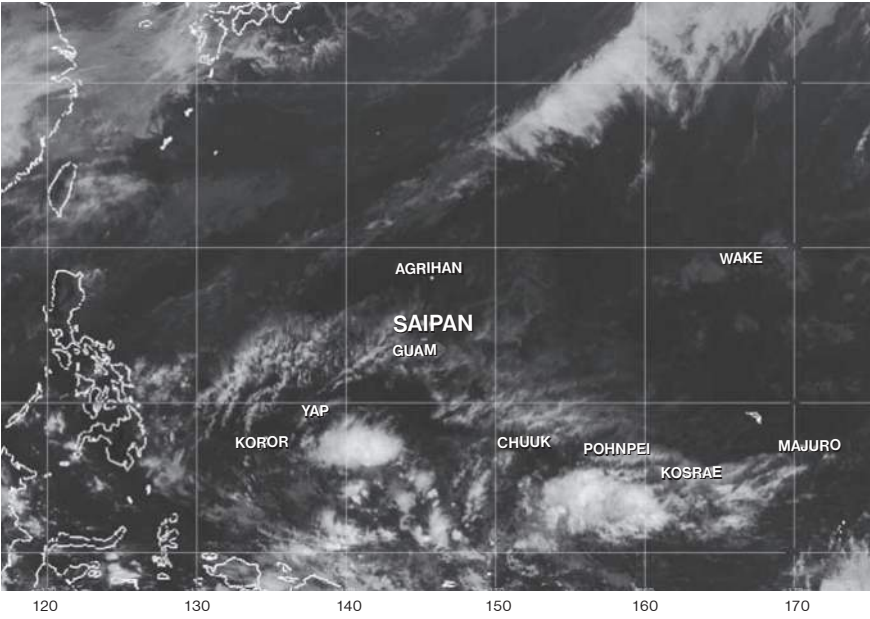
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 54 ▼ 33
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 77 ▼ 73
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 69
London	Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 30
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 66 ▼ 52
Miami	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 51
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 35
Osaka	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 53
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 32
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 43
Rome	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 53
Salem	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 33
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 56
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 36

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:58 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front that is transitioning to a shear-line stretches southwestward from east of Iwo To island at 25N150E to 16N135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen along and up to 200 miles northwest of the front. A near-equatorial trough well south of Koror and Yap extends southeastward from 3N130E to EQ146E. Scattered showers are found south of a line running from 4N132E to 2N144E north of the trough. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are located southeast of Yap between 6N and 8N from 138E to 143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of the trough axis up to 5N from 140E to 147E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from southeast of Chuuk and south of Pohnpei to near Kosrae between 1N and 6N from from 153E to 168E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:21 PM	5:45 AM
Thursday	7:18 PM	6:30 AM
Friday	8:17 PM	7:18 AM
Saturday	9:18 PM	8:09 AM
Sunday	10:19 PM	9:03 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-TINIAN FRE 101 6:45 6:55 Daily FRE 103 7:30 7:40 Daily FRE 105 8:00 8:10 Daily FRE 107 8:40 8:50 Daily FRE 109 9:10 9:20 Daily FRE 111 10:45 10:55 Daily	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Berezovsky's billions: How the tycoon lost so much

By **RAPHAEL SATTER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—How do you burn through billions?

The death of Boris Berezovsky, whose body was found Saturday inside his upscale English home, has refocused attention on the fantastic wealth racked up by Russia's ruthless oligarchs—and their propensity for spending it. Berezovsky, 67, had once been considered Russia's richest man—but by this January, a British judge was wondering whether the tycoon would be able to pay his debts.

Police say post mortem examinations have found that Berezovsky died from hanging. There was no violent struggle, and no evidence of anyone else being involved, they said. His lawyer said the oligarch had been in "a horrible, terrible" emotional state. The tycoon had survived several assassination attempts, including a 1994 car bomb in Moscow, and there was speculation as to whether his death was natural, part of a conspiracy or a suicide.

To understand how one man could lose so much money, it helps to see how he made it in the first place.

FOUNDATIONS OF A FORTUNE

Berezovsky, a mathematician, made his fortune in the 1990s during the catastrophic privatization of the Soviet Union's state-run economy. That era was marked by hyperinflation,

contract killings and rampant corruption. As Russia's GDP crumbled, oligarchs leveraged their ties to ruthless criminals and crooked officials to tear off huge chunks of the country's assets for themselves, draining resources and stripping factories to build fabulous fortunes.

Berezovsky—whose interests ran from automobiles to airplanes to aluminum—was one of this dark period's primary beneficiaries. He became a political operator in Russian President Boris Yeltsin's inner circle, trading on his connections to rack up assets estimated by Forbes to be worth roughly \$3 billion in 1997.

"No man profited more from Russia's slide into the abyss," author Paul Klebnikov wrote in a critical profile of Berezovsky titled "Godfather of the Kremlin."

Eventually, the abyss began threatening Berezovsky as well.

The tycoon had been instrumental in orchestrating the accession of Yeltsin's successor, Vladimir Putin, but when the new leader and Berezovsky began to clash, his political cover disintegrated. Berezovsky then fled the country in 2000, eventually claiming political asylum in Britain.

LIVING LARGE IN LONDON

How much money Berezovsky really had—and how much he was able to take with him from Moscow—remains shrouded in uncertainty. Rich Russians at the time routinely stashed their money in labyrinthine offshore



In this undated file photo, Boris Berezovsky, right, and Mikhail Khodarkovsky, two of Russia's most prominent tycoons, smile at a reception in Moscow. United Kingdom police have said that Berezovsky has been found dead Saturday March 23, 2013.

trusts or held assets under the names of associates or family members. Many deals weren't even put into writing.

What's clear is that the 1998 Russian financial crisis, coupled with Berezovsky's spectacular fall from political grace, had a big impact on his bottom line. Forbes estimated his post-Moscow fortune in the hundreds of millions. Rival oligarch Roman Abramovich testified in court that Berezovsky had been down to his last \$1 million when he fled Russia.

If Berezovsky were strapped for cash, he didn't show it. He

rode around London in a reinforced Maybach limousine and was often seen huddled with business contacts in the exclusive hotels that line London's Hyde Park.

His string of oversize mansions in England, France and the Caribbean suggested he was a cut above the average millionaire.

Russian officials seemed to believe that Berezovsky had plenty of cash on hand, trying—with mixed success—to claw back some of the exile's assets. Charges are still pending against him in relation to the alleged embezzlement of

some \$13 million from Russia's now-defunct SBS-Agro bank. Berezovsky had also previously been convicted in absentia of bilking hundreds of millions of rubles from the airline company Aeroflot and the carmaker AvtoVaz.

THE BILLS PILE UP

Berezovsky often expressed a fondness for Britain's legal system, despite his frequent and expensive encounters with it. A search of British court records throws up roughly three dozen judgments—libel, fraud, divorce, breach of contract—involving the tycoon in some way.

Berezovsky sued a business associate over a fraudulent loan. Other business associates sued him over a botched oil deal. Berezovsky sued Forbes over an unflattering profile. He sued Russian television for suggesting he had a hand in the poisoning death of ex-Russian KGB officer Alexander Litvinenko. His second wife sued him for a divorce. His girlfriend sued him for a house he'd promised her. He sued the wife of his long-time partner, Badri Patarkatsishvili, in a complicated dispute over how to split the man's assets after his death.

The sums involved were staggering. The loan deal was worth \$5 million. His second divorce settlement in 2011 reportedly cost him 100 million pounds (about \$154 million at the time). Patarkatsishvili's assets could

be worth hundreds of millions more. The biggest lawsuit of all, against Abramovich for breach of contract and blackmail, was for a mind-boggling \$5.6 billion.

Berezovsky lost the lawsuit against Abramovich last year and the judge involved stopped just short of calling him a liar. He was stuck with tens of millions of pounds in legal bills.

A FORTUNE FALTERS

Whatever the extent of Berezovsky's wealth, his expensive divorce, Patarkatsishvili's death and his paper mountain of litigation left it much reduced.

In 2008, Berezovsky was forced to sell the *Darius*, a 110-meter (360-foot)-long custom-built yacht that many believed was an attempt to compete with an even larger ship, the *Eclipse*, being built for Abramovich.

Earlier this month, the Times of London reported that Berezovsky was downsizing his art collection, selling off his homes, firing staff and closing his office in London's upscale Mayfair district.

In a January ruling in a dispute between Berezovsky and his ex-girlfriend Helena Gorbunova, High Court Judge George Mann wrote that the oligarch's fortune appeared to have been spread thin.

"On the evidence, Mr. Berezovsky is a man under financial pressure," he said.

Dell drama takes new twist with 2 new buyout bids

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The two new suitors pursuing Dell have a message for Wall Street: Don't allow Michael Dell to hoard potential gains from the PC maker's expansion into more profitable technology products and services.

Competing bidders Carl Icahn and the Blackstone Group LP are wooing Dell shareholders with an offer

of a little more money today coupled with the possibility of even bigger returns if the struggling personal computer maker can pull off the turnaround envisioned by its CEO and founder, Michael Dell and a group of investors led by Silver Lake Partners.

The new bidders are also making a statement by proposing to maintain Dell Inc.'s status

as a publicly traded company.

The long-awaited challenge to Michael Dell and Silver Lake began to unfold Monday with the announcement that Icahn, a billionaire investor with a long history of corporate confrontation, and the Blackstone, a major buyout firm, had submitted separate alternatives in an attempt to scuttle a \$24.4 billion sales

agreement that has been in place since Feb. 5.

If completed, the original deal would end Dell's 25-year history as a publicly traded company, leaving it entirely owned by Michael Dell, Silver Lake and a handful of other investors. The new bidders are taking advantage of a 45-day window that had been left open for better offers.

Yahoo buys startup run by 17-year-old entrepreneur

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo is buying London startup Summly, the maker of a mobile application created by teenage entrepreneur seeking an easier way to read news stories and other content on the smaller screens of smartphones.

The deal announced Monday is Yahoo's fifth small acquisi-

tion in the past five months. All of them have been part of CEO Marissa Mayer's effort to attract more engineers with expertise in building services for smartphones and tablet computers, an increasingly important area of technology that she believed the Internet company had been neglecting.

As with its other recent acquisi-

tions, Yahoo didn't disclose how much it is paying for Summly.

Summly makes a mobile application that condenses content so readers can scroll through more information more quickly. Summly founder Nick D'Aloisio began working on the app at his London home when he was 15. D'Aloisio is now 17,

which makes him younger than Yahoo, which was incorporated in March 1995.

Although the Yahoo acquisition won't close until later this spring, D'Aloisio said the Summly will no longer be available. Summly's technology will return in other Yahoo products, D'Aloisio wrote in a Monday blog post.

Cyprus' banks to remain closed until Thursday

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus ordered banks to remain closed for two more days over fears of a run by customers trying to get their money out, after striking a pre-dawn bailout deal Monday that averted the country's imminent bankruptcy.

The sudden midnight postponement of the much anticipated Tuesday bank opening by all but the country's two largest lenders was sure to hammer businesses already reeling from more than a week of no access to their deposits.

ATMs have been dispensing cash but often run out,

and an increasing number of stores and other businesses have stopped accepting credit or debit cards. The two largest lenders, the struggling Laiki and Bank of Cyprus, have imposed a daily withdrawal limit of 100 euros (\$130).

Cyprus clinched an eleventh-hour deal with the 17-nation eurozone and the International Monetary Fund early Monday for a 10 billion euro (\$13 billion) bailout. Without it, the country's banks would have collapsed, dragging down the economy and potentially pushing it out of the euro.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,447.80	1,551.69	3,235.30
-64.28	-5.20	-9.70
-0.44%	-0.33%	-0.30%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	0.9558	Indian Rupee	54.305	Singapore Dollar	1.2409
British Pound	0.6586	Indonesian Rupiah	9733	South Korean Won	1104.6
Canadian Dollar	1.02	Japanese Yen	94.215	Swiss Franc	0.9483
Chinese Yuan	6.2119	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0935	Taiwan Dollar	29.819
Euro	0.7768	New Zealand Dollar	1.1973	Thailand Baht	29.2929

Nation

High court gay marriage tickets cost time, money

WASHINGTON (AP)—The most expensive ticket to “The Book of Mormon” on Broadway: \$477. The face value of a great seat for this year’s Super Bowl: \$1,250. Guaranteed seats to watch the U.S. Supreme Court hear this week’s gay marriage cases: about \$6,000.

Tickets to the two arguments that begin Tuesday are technically free. But getting them requires lining up days or hours ahead, or paying someone else to. The first people got in line Thursday, bringing the price of saving a seat to around \$6,000.

For some, putting a value on the seats is meaningless.

“It’s just not possible,” said Fred Sainz a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest gay rights organization, which began employing two people to stand in line Thursday.

The court will hear arguments Tuesday over California’s ban on same-sex marriage. On Wednesday, the court will take up the federal Defense of



People wait in line outside of the Supreme Court in Washington, Monday March, 25, 2013, a day before the court will hear a same-sex marriage case. AP

tickets can start to form about a day before. When the court heard three days of arguments on health care last year, the first people arrived three days early.

This time, the line started even earlier. By Monday morning there were more than three dozen people waiting, even as snow was falling. Several in the line said they were being paid, while others included college students and a substitute teacher. People in line said they passed the time talking and reading.

There were games of cards and at one point people watched the television show “The West Wing” on one person’s computer. Those waiting said they’d made friends, and they traded watching each other’s chairs and sleeping bags to go for bathroom breaks or coffee. On Monday morning, one man came around offering others donuts.

Donna Clarke, 62, of Mountain View, Calif., arrived Sunday night and was 37th in line. The Army veteran who has been with her partner for 27 years had intended to just be part of a planned demonstration outside the court Tuesday, but she decided to join the line when she realized it might be possible to get inside.

“I think there’ll be a lot of my friends who will be very jealous,” said Clarke, who intends to marry her partner in Massachusetts before they return to California, and said the Supreme Court’s decision could be a “transformative moment” for the country.

Gun link, but many questions in corrections death

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Colorado corrections chief Tom Clements and his wife were watching television when the doorbell rang last Tuesday night. Clements opened the door and was shot to death.

“My life was changed forever,” Lisa Clements told hundreds of people, including corrections guards and officials from around the country, who gathered at a memorial service for her husband Monday.

Nearly a week after Clements’ death, investigators in Colorado say the gun suspect Evan Ebel used in a shootout with authorities in Texas is the same one used to kill Cle-

ments. However, they don’t know yet whether Ebel is the person who shot Clements, whether he acted alone and what motivated the slaying of a corrections’ chief admired by prisoner advocates and prison guards alike. Authorities warned that could take some time.



Clements

Until investigators determine whether Ebel, paroled from Colorado’s prison system, in January, acted alone, “it’s hard to know what his role was,” Lt. Jeff Kramer of the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office told The Associated Press.

“He remains a suspect in our investigation, obviously, especially after receiving this con-

firmed link from Texas,” he said.

No other suspects have been named.

Denver police suspect Ebel was involved in the killing of pizza deliveryman Nathan Leon. His body was found two days before Clements was killed.

Investigators also do not know whether the pizza box and Domino’s Pizza shirt or jacket found in the car Ebel was driving when he was captured in Texas—similar to one spotted near Clements home—were used by the killer to persuade Clements to open the door of his home, Kramer said.

A federal law enforcement official says Ebel was a member of the 211 Crew, a white supremacist prison gang in Colorado.

Marriage Act, the 1996 federal law that defines marriage as between one man and one woman. Supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage say the cases are so potentially historic that they want to be inside the courtroom to watch, no matter what the cost in time or money.

Part of the reason the seats are so coveted is the court doesn’t allow TV broadcasts of its arguments, so coming in person is the only way to see the justices at work. The court has said it will release transcripts of the hearings as well as audio recordings roughly two hours after each case ends, but advocates say that’s no substitute for

being there.

Seats, meanwhile, are at a premium because there aren’t that many. The courtroom seats about 500 people, but seats are reserved for court staff, journalists and guests of the justices and lawyers arguing the case. After those people are seated, there will be about 100 seats Tuesday for lawyers who are members of the Supreme Court bar and at least 60 seats for the general public. An additional 30 seats for the public will rotate every three to five minutes. Tickets for all those seats are handed out on a first come, first served basis.

For the most controversial cases, the line to get those

\$338M NJ Powerball winner says he’ll help family

PASSAIC, N.J. (AP)—The winner of a \$338 million Powerball jackpot told several media outlets Monday that his first priority will be helping his family.

Pedro Quezada, 44, entered Eagle Liquors store, where the ticket was sold, late Monday afternoon. The Passaic store owner ran Quezada’s ticket through the lottery machine to validate that it was a winner as a newspaper and television outlets recorded the moment.

The New Jersey Lottery confirmed that the winning ticket was validated at the store at 4:30 p.m. Monday, but officials said they didn’t yet know the winner’s name.

Quezada, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, told reporters in Spanish that he was “very happy” and that he intends to help his family.

His wife, Ines Sanchez, told The Record in Bergen County that Quezada called her with the

news Monday afternoon.

“I still can’t believe it,” she said. “We never expected it but thank God.”

The numbers drawn Saturday were 17, 29, 31, 52, 53 and Powerball 31. A lump sum payout would be \$221 million, or about \$152 million after taxes. It’s the fourth-largest jackpot in Powerball history.

The family’s apartment sits at the end of a short dead end block that abuts a highway in Passaic, 15 miles northwest of New York City. Neighbors spoke with pride that one of their own had struck it rich.

Eladia Vazquez has lived across the street from Quezada’s building for the past 25 years. The block has a half-dozen three-story brick apartment buildings on each side, and Vazquez says it’s a neighborhood where everyone knows everyone, including what car they drive and what parking

space they use.

Vazquez described Quezada and his wife as “quiet and not overly talkative” but sensed that they seemed to be working all the time.

“This is super for all of us on this block,” she said. “They deserve it because they are hard-working people.”

Alberto Liranzo, who lives two floors below Quezada, said the lottery winner has five children and owns a bodega in Passaic.

Dominican immigrant Jose Gonzalez said he barbecues and plays domino with Quezada in the summers in a backyard on their street.

“He sometimes would work from six in the morning to 11 at night, so I did not see him much,” Gonzalez said in Spanish. “I am happy for him. ... I don’t know where he is now but I imagine he will drop by to say hi to his friends.”

Girl, 9, walks to get help after crash kills dad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Braving the cold and howling of coyotes, nine-year-old Celia Renteria was certain her father was still alive when she crawled out of a steep Southern California canyon and walked in the desert darkness to summon for help after a rollover crash.

With temperatures dipping into the 40s, she hiked through rugged terrain to a nearby home. No one answered. Then she hiked up the rocky embankment and along the remote highway to a commuter rail station where she flagged down a passing motorist early Sunday.

When officers responded, they found Celia’s father, Alejandro Renteria, 35, dead. He

was pinned in the driver’s seat.

In all, she trekked 1 1/2 to 2 miles.

“She was very courageous, being able to walk through the dark, through bushes and very rough terrain to get help for her dad,” said California Highway Patrol Officer Gil Hernandez. “Had she just waited there, we probably would not have found her until the next day.”

The Renterias’ 2010 Ford Escape was launched about 200 feet down into the canyon along an isolated stretch of the Sierra Highway in the high desert of northern Los Angeles County at about 1 a.m. Sunday, the CHP said. The vehicle flipped several times.

Authorities said Celia man-

aged to free herself from the mangled wreck to find help. She finally found a passing motorist near Acton, a small town tucked in the mountains between Los Angeles and the Mojave Desert.

Law enforcement officials praised Celia’s bravery and tenacity.

“She walked quite a distance in a very, very threatening environment,” CHP Sgt. Tom Lackey told KABC-TV. “It’s very steep and it’s brushy and there’s also coyotes in the background.”

A helicopter airlifted the girl to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. She was treated for minor injuries including bumps and bruises and a cut on her face.

Asia

Kerry meets again with Afghan President Karzai

KABUL (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met again Tuesday with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a day after they put on a show of unity as they tried to end recent bickering over anti-American comments made by the Afghan leader.

Kerry was also holding a series of meetings Tuesday at the American Embassy in Kabul before wrapping up his short visit. He was meeting participants in a U.S.-backed women's entrepreneurship program as well as civic leaders playing a role in preparing for Afghanistan's 2014 elections.

Earlier Tuesday, eight suicide bombers attacked a police headquarters in the eastern city of Jalalabad, killing five officers and wounding four, police said. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Kerry arrived Monday in Kabul amid concerns that Karzai may be jeopardizing progress in the war against extremism with his rhetoric. Karzai infuriated U.S. officials earlier this month by accusing Washington of colluding with Taliban insurgents to keep Afghanistan weak even as the Obama administra-



Secretary of State John Kerry reaches to shake hands with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the end of their joint news conference at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Monday, March 25, 2013.

tion pressed ahead with plans to hand off security responsibility to Afghan forces and end NATO's combat mission by the end of next year.

After a private meeting, Kerry said he had asked Karzai about the comments and was very satisfied with the president's explanation. He said the

two countries were on the same page as international forces prepare to end combat operations in 2014.

At a joint news conference

after his talks with Kerry, Karzai told reporters his comments in a nationally televised speech had been misinterpreted by the media. Kerry demurred on that point but

said people sometimes say things in public that reflect ideas they have heard from others but don't necessarily agree with.

"I am confident the president (Karzai) does not believe the U.S. has any interest except to see the Taliban come to the table to make peace and that we are completely cooperative with the government of Afghanistan with respect to the protection of their efforts and their people," Kerry said.

For his part, Karzai said he had been trying to make the point in his speech that if the Taliban really wanted foreign troops out of Afghanistan they should stop killing people.

As Kerry flew to Kabul on Monday, the U.S. military ceded control of the Parwan detention facility near Bagram, a year after the two sides initially agreed on the transfer. Karzai had demanded control of Parwan as a matter of national sovereignty.

The long-running dispute over the center had thrown a pall over ongoing negotiations for a bilateral security agreement to govern the presence of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after 2014. Both Kerry and Karzai lauded the transfer of the facility.

Vietnam accuses China of firing on fishing boat

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam has accused a Chinese vessel of firing on a Vietnamese fishing boat in the disputed South China Sea and setting its cabin alight, exposing tensions in the region over rival claims to the gas-rich waters.

The government described the incident last Wednesday as "very serious" and lodged a formal complaint with the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi.

The fishing boat was near the Paracel islands when it was chased and shot at by an unidentified Chinese vessel, the government statement said late Monday.

It demanded China punished those responsible and pay reparations to the fishermen whose boat was dam-

aged. The government didn't say if anyone was injured.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said it had no immediate response to the accusation.

There have been other clashes in the waters, often related to claims of illegal fishing or violations of Chinese unilaterally imposed fishing moratoriums.

Vietnam and China each claim large parts of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei also maintain parts of the sea are theirs.

The countries have been in dispute with each other for years, but the profile of the issue has been raised in recent years because of China's economic and military growth and

subsequent American interest. The Paracels, which were occupied by China shortly before the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, is a particular flashpoint.

China last year incorporated the Paracels and most of its other South China Sea claims within the newly declared Sansha city-level administrative unit as way of raising the region's profile and increasing funds for infrastructure and economic development.

China is also boosting its civilian fisheries and maritime surveillance patrols in the area. China's navy also conducts missions in the South China Sea, although it has sought to keep military units out of conflict zones to avoid elevating tensions.

Australian threatened with death before release

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants had threatened to kill an Australian hostage before his family paid a ransom to secure his freedom last week after 15 months of jungle captivity in the southern Philippines, a Filipino official said Monday.

Former Australian soldier Warren Richard Rodwell, 54, was released early Saturday in Pagadian city in southern Zamboanga del Sur province, emaciated and barely able to walk from his long captivity in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group dreaded for beheading some of its hostages.

Al Rasheed Sakalahul, the vice governor of southern Basilan province who helped negotiate Rodwell's freedom, said Abu Sayyaf commander Puruji Indama agreed to release him after receiving 4 million pesos (\$98,000) in ransom from the Australian's family on Thursday.

Sakalahul said he scrambled to help secure Rodwell's release because of his frail health, the possibility that he might die in crossfire and an Abu Sayyaf threat to kill the captive.

"If Rodwell was not released before the Holy Week, there was a threat to kill him," Sakalahul told reporters in Manila.

Rodwell was flown to Manila on Monday and thanked Sakalahul and police officials, along with the Philippine and Australian governments, for their efforts to save him.

"I'm sort of overwhelmed to know the amount of effort and compassion that were put into these operations," Rodwell told a news conference at the Manila airport. Asked how he was, Rodwell, who was limping, said, "I'm getting stronger."

Rodwell's sister Denise Cappello and brother Wayne Rodwell flew to Manila on Monday to meet him.

They read a family statement expressing hope that police could track down the kidnappers.

"We hope they will be brought to justice so others don't have to experience what Warren has just been through," they told a separate news conference.

Sakalahul, citing intelligence reports, said he suspected at least three armed groups were involved in the kidnapping. Working together, two separate criminal groups appeared to have abducted Rodwell on the Zamboanga Peninsula and held him there or on nearby islands, while the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf negotiated for money. Basilan, where the Abu Sayyaf was founded in the 1990s, is a short boat ride from the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Rodwell is married to a Filipino woman whose cousin handed the ransom payment to Indama in Basilan's hinterland in Sakalahul's presence, the vice governor said.

Both the Australian and Philippine governments have strict policies of refusing to pay ran-

som. That left Rodwell's family to struggle to raise funds, including selling some of their properties, according to a report seen by The Associated Press.

"We don't encourage these ransom payments, but we can't stop the family from raising funds to save their loved one," Sakalahul said, expressing alarm at how different armed groups now appeared to be conspiring to carry out kidnappings.

After checking if the money was authentic, Indama counted the bundled bills and said he would order Rodwell freed. He even promised to return the money if the release was scuttled, Sakalahul said.

A Philippine military official who closely monitored the kidnapping said he suspected rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a former Muslim secessionist group that signed a preliminary peace accord with the government last year, the Abu Sayyaf, and a kidnap gang called the Al Khobar group collaborated in the kidnapping.

Over the last 15 months, Rodwell appeared in several proof-of-life videos posted by the militants. His jungle captivity appeared to have taken a toll on his health and he looked weaker in each video.

When his captors let him go from a motor boat in Pagadian, the still-dazed Rodwell plodded along a muddy coast until he was found by a villager, who asked if he was a tourist.

ASIAN BRIEFS

5 Afghan police killed in suicide attack in east

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Eight suicide bombers attacked a police headquarters in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad on Tuesday, killing five officers and wounding four others, a security official said. An insurgent in a bomb-laden car detonated his vehicle in front of the Jalalabad Police Quick Reaction Force to start the attack, and another seven attackers wearing bomb vests then stormed the compound, police said. Three of those attackers blew themselves

up inside the compound and the other four were shot by police during a gunfight that lasted more than an hour. Nangarhar provincial police chief Mohammad Sharif Amin said some of the attackers were wearing uniforms resembling those worn by the U.S.-led NATO coalition.

Most Aussie troops to leave Afghanistan this year

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Most Australian troops in Afghanistan will be home by the end of the year when the interna-

tional military base at Tarin Kowt in Uruzgan province closes, Defense Minister Stephen Smith said Tuesday. At least 1,000 of the 1,550 Australian troops in Afghanistan will be withdrawn by the end of 2013, he said. The decision by the U.S.-led International Security Assistance Force to draw down and close the base at Tarin Kowt was made after consultation with Australia and Afghan authorities and is in line with the timetable to transition to Afghan security forces full responsibility for the province by the end of the year, he said.

World

Officials: US training Syrian forces in Jordan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is training secular Syrian fighters in Jordan in a bid to bolster forces battling President Bashar Assad's regime and stem the influence of Islamist radicals among the country's persistently splintered opposition, American and foreign officials said.

The training has been conducted for several months now in an unspecified location, con-

centrating largely on Sunnis and tribal Bedouins who formerly served as members of the Syrian army, officials told The Associated Press. The forces aren't members of the leading rebel group, the Free Syrian Army, which Washington and others fear may be increasingly coming under the sway of extremist militia groups, including some linked to al-Qaida, they said.

The operation is being run

by U.S. intelligence and is ongoing, officials said, but those in Washington stressed that the U.S. is providing only nonlethal aid at this point. Others such as Britain and France are involved, they said, though it's unclear whether any Western governments are providing materiel or other direct military support after two years of civil war that according to the United Nations already has killed more than

70,000 people.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the program.

Officially, the Obama administration has been vague on the subject of what type of military training it may be providing, while insisting that it is doing all it can—short of providing weapons to the rebels or engaging in its own military intervention—to hasten the demise of the Assad family's four-decade dictatorship.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday the U.S.

has "provided some logistical nonlethal support that has also come in handy for the Syrian rebels who are, again, fighting a regime that is not hesitating to use the military might of that regime against its own people."

"That is something we're going to continue to work to bring to an end," he told reporters.

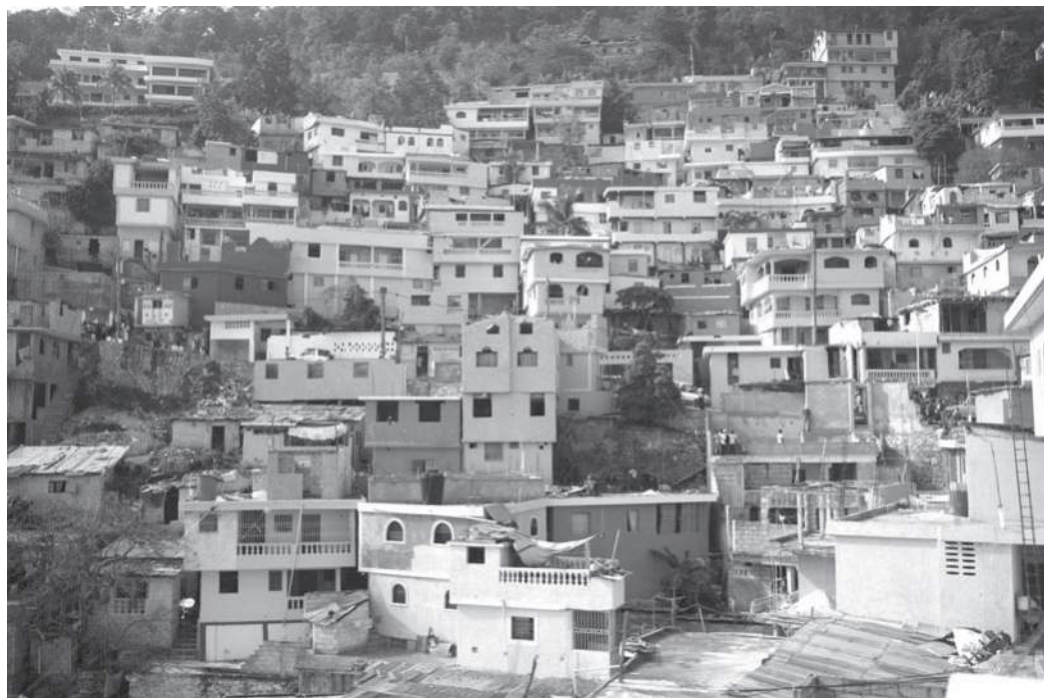
It's unclear what effect the training has had in the conflict, which has become a quagmire with Assad's regime unable to snuff out the rebellion and Syria's opposition incapable thus far of delivering any serious

blow to the ruling government's grip on Damascus and control over much of the country.

Some of the Syrians the U.S. is involved with are, in turn, training other Syrians inside the border, officials said.

They declined to provide more information because they said that would go too deep into intelligence matters. Defense Department officials insisted the Pentagon isn't involved with any military training or arms provisions to the Syrian rebels, either directly or indirectly. The CIA declined to comment.

Haiti splashes slum with psychedelic colors



In this picture taken March 21, 2013, homes painted in bright colors cover a hill in Jalousie, a cinder block shantytown in Petionville, Haiti.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—One of Haiti's biggest shantytowns, a vast expanse of grim cinderblock homes on a mountainside in the nation's capital, is getting a psychedelic makeover that aims to be part art and part homage.

Workers this month began painting the concrete facades of buildings in Jalousie slum a rainbow of purple, peach, lime and cream, inspired by the dazzling "cities-in-the-skies" of well-known Haitian painter Prefete Duffaut, who died last year.

The \$1.4 million effort titled "Beauty versus Poverty: Jalousie in Colors" is part of a government project to relocate people from the displacement camps that sprouted up after Haiti's 2010 earthquake. The relocation has targeted a handful of high-profile camps in Port-au-Prince by paying a year's worth of rent subsidies for residents to move into neighborhoods like Jalousie. The government is now trying to spruce up these poor neighborhoods and introduce city services.

"We're not trying to do Coconut Grove. We're not trying to do South Beach," said Clement Belizaire, director of the government's housing relocation program, referring to Miami neighborhoods. "The goal that we are shooting for is a neigh-

borhood that is modest but decent, where residents are proud to be from that area."

While most residents welcome the attempt to beautify Jalousie, a slum of 45,000 inhabitants, critics say the project is the latest example of cosmetic changes carried out by a government that has done little to improve people's lives in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

"This is just to make it look like they're doing something for the people but in reality they are not," said Sen. Moise Jean-Charles, an outspoken critic of President Michel Martelly, arguing that the money could have been better spent.

Amid its narrow corridors and steep steps, Jalousie has no traditional sewage system or electric grid. The slum is lit at night by candles and a web of wires that tap illegally into the public power system, dangling above the concrete homes. Water is provided by an outdoor spigot where people line up with buckets.

Some people wonder why Jalousie was chosen for the makeover, though officials say they plan to expand the project to other Port-au-Prince shantytowns.

Jalousie is unique in that its mountainside presence makes

it visible to people living in the wealthy district of Petionville. Critics have suggested that the choice of Jalousie is as much about giving the posh hotels of Petionville a pretty view as helping the slum's residents.

Belizaire said he welcomes controversy, adding that the project's visibility is important. It's a concrete accomplishment for the government and he contends that it does indeed help Jalousie residents.

"People are sitting on the balcony, having a beer, smoking a cigarette - whatever - and you have all of Port-au-Prince at your feet, and you're living in colors," Belizaire said, sitting in his office.

Jalousie, perched above rich Petionville, has become a flashpoint for class controversy in Haiti recently. It is among many slums that have sprawled across the hills of Port-au-Prince in recent decades because governments past and present have failed to provide affordable housing and basic services. Many of the homes crash down the hills every year during the country's rainy seasons.

Haiti's class divisions spilled into the streets last year when more than 1,000 people from Jalousie protested in central Port-au-Prince.

C. African Republic president flees to Cameroon

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The president of the Central African Republic fled the country for Cameroon after rebels overran the capital of the impoverished nation long wracked by rebellions.

South Africa said Monday that 13 of its soldiers were killed in fighting with rebels, prompting criticism about why its forces had intervened in such a volatile conflict.

Ousted President Francois Bozize sought "temporary" refuge on its territory, the Cameroonian government confirmed Monday.

Central African Republic's new leadership appeared fragmented, with a split emerging in the rebel coalition that seized the capital.

The African Union on Monday imposed a travel ban and asset freeze on seven leaders of the rebel coalition, known as Seleka, and said their advance had undermined prospects for a lasting solution to the crisis in the landlocked country. It urged African states to deny "any sanctuary and cooperation" to the rebel chiefs.

The United States is "deeply concerned about a serious de-

terioration in the security situation" in Central African Republic, said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement Sunday.

"We urgently call on the Seleka leadership which has taken control of Bangui to establish law and order in the city and to restore basic services of electricity and water," the statement said.

The U.N. Security Council said in a statement that it "strongly condemned the recent attacks and the seizure of power by force in the Central African Republic" and "the ensuing violence and looting."

It also denounced the violence that led to the South African casualties. The Security Council "called on all parties to refrain from any acts of violence against civilians, including foreign communities."

The rebel groups making up the Seleka alliance agreed they wanted Bozize out. Some of the rebels complained of broken promises of government jobs and other benefits. Others cited the deep impoverishment of the country's distant north despite

the Central African Republic's considerable wealth of gold, diamonds, timber and uranium.

Africa has a fraught history of foreign military missions, whether for humanitarian or political purposes, or some combination of the two, in times of conflict. The central part of the continent, repeatedly buffeted by interlocking rebellions, is particularly treacherous for countries with an activist foreign policy.

In addition to the South African troop deaths, another 27 soldiers were wounded in the country's worst loss in combat since nine soldiers died in Lesotho in 1998.

"I think South Africa realized right from the beginning that there will be casualties," said Johan Potgieter, a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, in Pretoria, the South African capital. "If you want to be in peacekeeping, and you don't want body bags, you should get out of there."

South Africa's losses point to the challenges that the country faces as it tries to project continental leadership amid questions about the adequacy of its resources and the clarity of political direction from Pretoria.



Bozize

WORLD BRIEFS

Peru declares Amazon oil contamination emergency

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peru's government declared an environmental state of emergency on Monday in a remote Amazon jungle region it says has been affected by years of contamination at the country's most productive oil fields, which are currently operated by Argentina-based Pluspetrol. Indigenous groups in the Pastaza River basin near the Ecuador border have been complaining for years about the pollution and the failure of successive governments to address it. Authorities say one reason the pollution was never addressed is that until now Peru

lacked the requisite environmental quality standards. In declaring the emergency, Peru's Environment Ministry said the contamination included high levels of lead, barium and chromium as well as petroleum-related compounds. The region is inhabited mostly by the Quichua and Ashuar, who are primarily hunter-gatherers.

Egypt top prosecutor orders arrest of 5 activists

CAIRO (AP)—After Egypt's Islamist president vowed action against opponents, the nation's top prosecutor on Monday issued arrest warrants against five prominent activists

over clashes between the Muslim Brotherhood and protesters. The warrants heightened the latest in a series of crises plaguing this nation of some 90 million since the ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak's ouster. Rights activists and the opposition warned the warrants could mark the opening of an intimidation campaign against their ranks by President Mohammed Morsi and the Brotherhood, through the prosecutor. They accused the prosecutor—handpicked by Morsi late last year—saying he has ignored Morsi supporters' violence against protesters and moved quickly against opposition figures.

Focus

THON MIN YAR, Myanmar (AP)—Deep in the lawless mountains of the Golden Triangle, sloping fields of illegal poppies have just been scraped dry for opium. This is the peak season for producing drugs here, and in Myanmar's nascent era of democratic change, the haul has only increased.

Opium, its derivative heroin and methamphetamines are surging across Myanmar's borders in quantities that the United Nations and police in neighboring countries say are the highest levels in years.

Two years after replacing a long-ruling military junta, the civilian government is still struggling to get a foothold in its war against drugs. The trade is centered in a remote, impoverished area where the government has little control and where ethnic armies have waged civil wars for decades—wars financed with drug money.

The Associated Press was granted rare access to Myanmar's drug-producing hub in the vast, jungle-clad mountain region of northeastern Shan state, deep in a cease-fire zone that was closed to foreigners for decades. It's a land dotted with makeshift methamphetamine labs and tiny, poor villages where growing opium is the only real industry. The trip was part of a U.N. mission allowed only under armed police escort.

President Thein Sein has signed cease-fire agreements with a patchwork of rebel groups in the region, but the peace is extremely fragile and sporadic fighting continues. Cracking down on drug syndicates or arresting poor opium farmers risks alienating the ethnic groups he is courting for peace talks.

"To stop the drug problem, we need peace. And that is what the government is trying to achieve now," said police Col. Myint Thein, head of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse and Control, which controls the country's drug policy. "But that is just one of so many challenges. This is a very difficult task. It will take time."

Foreign aid that could help combat drugs is just beginning to trickle back into the area, which is rife with corruption. But the toughest task may be transforming the destitute rural economy, filled with poor farmers who view growing opium as the best way to provide for their families.

Dozens of those farmers live in Thon Min Yar, a village in southern Shan state that is far in every sense from Myanmar's postcard-perfect pagodas and colonial relics. So obscure it does not appear on maps, it is an image of dirt-road squalor and government neglect.

Its 73 bamboo huts have no electricity or running water. Its people have no access to health care, no job prospects, not enough food and no aspirations other than survival. Toddlers and teens get a one-sized-fits-all education in a one-room schoolhouse.



In this Feb. 19, 2013 photo, ethnic Pa-O poppy farmer holds a harvested poppy stem with dried-up opium sap in a poppy cultivation in central Shan state, Myanmar.

Rising drug trade threatens Myanmar's aspirations

Almost everyone in Thon Min Yar is an opium farmer.

"My father and my grandfather grew opium. I have no other way to make money," said 28-year-old Peter Ar Loo, a father of two.

He does not smoke opium, but sometimes he envies the life of an addict. They seem more carefree, he said.

But he added, "Using opium only benefits one person. Selling it helps my whole family."

Opium farmers like Ar Loo are not the people getting rich from the drug trade. They are among the poorest people in one of the world's least-developed countries.

In a good year, Ar Loo makes about \$1,000 from an acre-sized field of poppies. That doesn't include business expenses which he calls "paying respects"—a roughly 15 percent opium tax doled out to local authorities who turn a blind eye in exchange.

Police control the towns, government soldiers patrol the roads and ethnic armies rule the mountains. All of them get a cut.

"We give to the Shan militia, the police and the army," Ar Loo said.

There is a law that bans growing opium poppies, but he said no one in his village has ever been arrested. "We get permis-

sion from the local authorities, explaining that we need to do this to feed our children."

The government says it wants farmers to grow corn and other legal crops, but many poppy farmers say the terrible mountain roads mean getting legal crops to market is almost impossible.

Opium is different: The buyers come straight to your fields.

Ar Loo's poppy field is a 30-mile trek into the jungle, an inconvenient location he chose after police launched an anti-narcotics campaign a year ago and warned farmers to switch to legal crops—or face arrest.

"The farmers are just finding fields deeper in the mountains," shrugged Ar War, chief of a nearby community called Yar Thar Yar, or Beautiful View Village. Pointing at mist-shrouded jungles controlled by ethnic armies, he added, "It's harder for police to find them there."

And even with the campaign, part of the central government's new anti-narcotics effort, police may not be looking that hard. The payoff continues.

The Golden Triangle is defined by the area where Shan state meets the borders of Thailand and Laos. It was the world's top opium-growing region for years, but in the 1990s,

Afghanistan became the top producer and drug syndicates here began focusing more on methamphetamines.

Now heroin and methamphetamines are both on the rise.

In Thailand, authorities last year seized a record 82.2 million methamphetamine tablets, a 66 percent increase from the year before.

"These drugs are not produced in Thailand. They are from Myanmar," said Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Chalermlak Yubumrung, who has vocally called on Myanmar to step up its policing efforts. "If Myanmar cooperates, that's the end of the drug story. It's better than it used to be, but still far from perfect."

Authorities in Singapore, Laos and elsewhere in Southeast Asia also reported record hauls that the U.N. says are predominantly from Myanmar.

Myanmar's poppy cultivation, meanwhile, has more than doubled since 2006, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. Myanmar produced an estimated 690 tons of opium in 2012, a 17 percent jump from the year before.

No one can say for sure what is driving the overall increase in Myanmar's drug production, but Ar Loo, who doubled his

poppy production last year, said his motivation was inflation.

"Food prices are going up. Gasoline is more expensive," he said. "If the military or police force us to stop immediately, there will be problems. Because people will not have enough to eat."

Experts offer other explanations—notably that cash-strapped ethnic armies are planning for the future.

Many rebels are resisting a government demand to form a joint patrol force with the army by 2015 but need more strength and leverage at the negotiating table.

"It's an uneasy cease-fire, and most of the groups are jostling to be in a better bargaining position," said Leik Boonwaat, the UNODC deputy regional director for East Asia and the Pacific. "In order to be in a better bargaining position, you need money, you need more soldiers, and the best way to do that is drugs."

Drugs could also offer traffickers a path to greater riches once trade barriers are lifted. Thailand's intelligence indicates that the rebel-controlled drug syndicates are planning for when 10 Southeast Asian countries lift trade barriers to become a single market in 2015.

"In 2015, these drug dealers will want to invest in legitimate

businesses. So right now they are trying to boost their capital, and pumping out large amounts of drugs can help them achieve their goal," said Narong Rattananugul, acting head of Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board.

Most of Myanmar's drugs are trafficked through its porous 1,100-kilometer (680-mile) border with Thailand. Narong said his country seizes drugs almost daily and added, "The problem cannot really be solved."

The drugs that exit the Golden Triangle ripple across all of Asia, which is why Myanmar is seeking the world's help.

"This is not just Myanmar's concern. The whole international community should cooperate in eliminating the drug problem," said Myint Thein, the anti-drug official. "We cannot afford it alone."

Foreign funding has been trickling back into the country, now that most sanctions imposed during military rule have been lifted. The United States just reactivated a poppy yield survey in Shan state that was discontinued in 2004. The European Union and Germany have contributed \$7 million for U.N. anti-drug projects over the next two years. But that is a tiny fraction of the money needed.

Earlier this month, Myanmar sent a high-level delegation to the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna for the first time to highlight the link between drugs, poverty and conflict, and to ask for financial help.

In October, Myanmar quietly revised a deadline the ex-junta set in 1999 to wipe out illicit drugs by 2014. It changed the date to 2019 and set a more realistic target.

"Our objective is to reduce opium poppy cultivation as much as we can," said Myint Thein. "There is no country where you have zero drugs."

For years, soldiers with sickles were sent to destroy poppy crops, which was easy but ineffective.

"The government now realizes eradication doesn't work," said Jason Eligh, the UNODC representative in Myanmar who is leading a U.N. pilot project to help farmers switch to legal crops. "The government is starting to understand the value in admitting mistakes and admitting failure. These are small steps, but this is progress."

After being unable to access the drug-and-conflict zone for decades, the U.N. agency was allowed to enter southern Shan state for the first time in January 2012. The breakthrough came a month after the government signed cease-fire agreements with different factions of the Shan State Army.

Campus Life

GCA eagles soar high in different competitions



Grace Christian Academy's mathletes will compete in the regional Math Court competition in May.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students from kindergarten to 12th grade soared high like their school mascot, the eagles, in different competitions for the past months. They did not only excel in academic competitions, forensic arts, and theatre arts but also in sports.

GCA K-5 mathletes won six first place awards from the last monthly qualifying competition held on March 2, 2013. They will compete in the regional competition in May.

For the higher grades, GCA's 6th-8th grade competitors did well in the National Junior Forensic League competition while its 9th-12th grades also shone in the National Forensic League competition during the last monthly qualifying rounds held at Kagman High School last Feb. 16, 2013. They are now preparing for the regional competition.

The GCA thespians also showcased their talents in theatre arts in all the pre-regional rounds for both Junior and Senior Thespians from October, November, January, and March competitions.

The GCA Lady Eagles also emerged as the champion of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2013 girls volleyball tournament after defeating Saipan International School Lady Green Geckos in their finale tournament last Feb. 23, 2013, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The champion squad consisted of Aira Jaye Batallones, Danica Canedo, Crystalline Cristobal, Zena Demapan, Michelle Faller, Alex Go, Jody Kim, Julie Muna, Jazmin Rayphand, Jaden Reyes, Mulan Ta, and Michiko Tenorio under coach Jennifer Douglas.

The administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy are very proud of each student and would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in these island-wide competitions.



Grace Christian Academy's representatives to the National Junior Forensic League competition and the pre-regional rounds for the Junior Thespians have their picture taken at the school's campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Above, the GCA Lady Eagles are named champions of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization 2013 girls volleyball tournament on Feb. 23, 2013, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Grace Christian Academy's representatives to the National Forensic League competition and the pre-regional rounds for Senior Thespians have their picture taken at the school's campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MATH COURT K- 5th Grade

Kindergarten

Katelyn Mafnas, 1st Place
Tae Hee Kim, 2nd Place

First Grade

Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 1st Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 2nd Place

Second Grade

Ryan Daproza, 1st Place
Ayaka Sato, 1st Place
Deancey Chua, 2nd Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 3rd Place
Steven Adriatico, 3rd Place

Third Grade

Miku Kimura, 1st Place
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 2nd Place
James Alexander Keaton, 3rd Place
Karissa Quichocho, 4th place
Julia Kim, 4th place

Fifth Grade

Tae Yong Kim, 1st Place
Arvin Dayao, 3rd Place

Math Court coordinator:
Susan Pajarillaga

NATIONAL JUNIOR FORENSIC LEAGUE

6TH-8TH GRADE

Dramatic Interpretation A
Minna Ito, 3rd Place

Dramatic Interpretation B
Cyril Salcedo, 1st Place
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Robert Marmito, 2nd Place

Humorous Interpretation B
Melody Woo, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation A
Cyril Salcedo, 3rd Place
Robert Marmito, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation B
Dianne Arnold, 4th Place
Peggy Pixley, 4th Place

Impromptu Speech A
Dianne Arnold, 1st Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 2nd Place
Noah Camacho, 5th Place

Impromptu Speech B
Robert Marmito, 1st Place
Minna Ito, 3rd Place
Mycah Yobech, 5th Place

Original Oratory
Minna Ito, 2nd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Peggy Pixley, 5th Place

Poetry Reading Masters B
Cyril Salcedo, 3rd Place
Alyssa Jade Nunez, 4th Place

Prose Reading Masters A
Dianne Arnold, 2nd Place

NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE 9TH-12TH GRADE

Dramatic Interpretation A
Rebekah Kim, 2nd Place

Dramatic Interpretation B
Kayla Sasaki, 3rd Place

Duo Interpretation A
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

Terence Ho, 1st Place
Rebekah Kim, 2nd Place
Jimaela Ham, 2nd Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Kayla Sasaki, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speech C
Terence Ho, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters A
Jimaela Ham, 2nd Place
Rebekah Kim, 3rd Place

Poetry Reading Masters D
Dong Ha Lee, 3rd Place
Kayla Sasaki, 5th Place

Prose Reading Masters A
Jimaela Ham, 2nd Place
Rebekah Kim, 3rd Place

Prose Reading Masters C
Terence Ho, 2nd Place

Story Telling A
Dong Ha Lee, 1st Place

INTERNATIONAL THESPIANS SOCIETY

JUNIOR THESPIANS

6TH-8TH GRADE

Monologue

Cyril Salcedo - 2nd Place, 2nd Place, 4th Place
Robert Marmito - 1st Place, 2nd Place, 5th Place 3rd Place

Solo Musical Theater

Dianne Arnold- 4th Place, 3rd Place, 1st Place, 2nd Place
Paula Rose Talibong- DNC, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place
Rosie Castro- DNC, 3rd Place, 5th Place, 5th Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung- DNC, 5th Place, 3rd Place, 1st Place

Duet Acting

Cyril Salcedo - 1st Place, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 3rd Place
Robert Marmito - 1st Place, 1st Place, 3rd Place, 3rd Place
Dianne Arnold- 1st Place, 2nd Place, 5th Place, 5th Place
Peggy Pixley- 1st Place, 2nd Place, 5th Place, 5th Place

Coach: Galilee Neal

SENIOR THESPIANS

9TH-12TH GRADE

Monologue

Alexa Go - 4th Place, 1st Place, 3rd Place, DNC
Rebekah Kim - 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place, 4th Place
Jimaela Ham- DNC, 1st Place, 1st Place, 2nd Place

Solo Musical Theatre

Bethany Garfil- DNC, 3rd Place, MQ, 4th Place

Duet Acting

Alexa Go - 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 5th Place, 3rd Place
Rebekah Kim - 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 5th Place, 3rd Place

Scenic Design

Angela Mamaril- 1st Place, 2nd Place, DNC

Marketing

Angela Mamaril- DNC, 2nd Place, DNC

NJFL/NFL/Thespians coordinator: Ami Joy Danganan

Life & Style

Tilda Swinton takes an artful nap at US museum

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not the kind of performance that will win her another Academy Award, but British actress Tilda Swinton certainly has people buzzing at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

But keep quiet, please. She's trying to sleep.

The "Moonrise Kingdom" star has been engaging in a different kind of performance art. She's presenting a one-person piece called "The Maybe," in which she lies sleeping in a glass box for the day. The first performance was over the weekend, and the museum won't say when it will come back for six more performances.

On Monday, the display drew a line of spectators.

Erwin Aschenbrenner, a bemused German tourist, said it was "just what you'd expect to see at MoMA."

The actress "is so pale and not moving in there that she looks like she's dead," said Robbie von Kampen, 20.

After about seven hours a

day on a white mattress in the glass box—with only a carafe of water and a glass to get her through—Swinton can stretch and walk away. But only when spectators leave.

So what's the point?

"This makes me think about myself, looking at her," said Quinn Moreland, 20. "You don't usually get to stare at somebody like this; it makes me self-conscious."

"Yeah, it's socially unacceptable—it's kinda creepy," von Kampen said.

No one, not even museum curators, could say whether the mostly immobile Swinton is actually getting some sleep while people stare.

She wore a pair of grubby sneakers, dark sporty slacks and a checkered shirt. Her glasses lay on the mattress.

Swinton also starred in a glass box in 1995 at London's Serpentine Gallery—seven days, eight hours a day—in an exhibition seen by 22,000 people.

The next year, she repeated the spectacle at the Museo Baracco in Rome.



Actress Tilda Swinton performs the art of sleeping in her one-person piece called "The Maybe," in New York's Museum of Modern Art, Monday, March 25, 2013. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Emilia Clarke was auditioning to play one of America's most iconic heroines and wanted to impress. Her first scene required her to bite an apple.

"I was like, 'Oh, yeah. I'm going to go all Daniel Day-Lewis on them. I'm going to bring my own apple!'" the British actress recently recalled.

Everything was going well in the London rehearsal room until the character takes a bite. "I took this almighty hunk. I literally took half the apple in this one mouthful," she says, laughing.

As her scene partner and the director watched, stunned, Clarke kept going, despite a mouthful of fruit. "I remember being, 'Well, I guess I have to kind of go there.'"

Whether it was due to her exuberance or sheer commitment, or a mixture of both, Clarke won the part, and what a part it is: Holly Golightly in a stage adaptation of Truman Capote's classic 1958 novella, "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

"I still don't think I really do realize the enormity of it," says Clarke, who will be making her Broadway debut—actually, her first professional stage debut—in the role made famous in film by Audrey Hepburn.

"It's funny, a lot of actors I've spoken to have sort of said, 'Oh, it's really brave that you're doing it,'" she says. "I'm like, 'What? Are you kidding me?' This would never have been a choice. It's a 100 percent yes. You don't say 'maybe' to that."

Clarke, a petite, stunning brunette with a wide smile,

Sci-fi star Emilia Clarke on being Holly Golightly



This theater image released by The O+M Company shows Emilia Clarke in a scene from "Breakfast at Tiffany's," performing at the Cort Theatre in New York. AP

has come to the role from what seems like the other side of the galaxy. For the past few years she's been playing the platinum-haired Daenerys Targaryen in the fantasy adventure saga "Game of Thrones," a series adapted from George R.R. Martin's novel series "A Song of Ice and Fire."

Last year, viewership climbed to rank as HBO's third most popular show of all time, averaging 11.6 million viewers

weekly across all the company's platforms. Season three begins at the end of the month. Playing Daenerys has helped propel the 25-year-old Clarke, who is known on the show as The Mother of Dragons, into a star.

"She's the reason why I'm doing 'Breakfast at Tiffany's!'" says Clarke. "I don't know how they connect and I don't know how I've fooled these people into thinking I can do both of them. But it's been—and con-

tinues to be—the most incredible roller coaster."

Fans of the Blake Edwards film will find this Golightly is very different from the one that made Hepburn a fashion icon, with her ball gowns, long gloves, elaborate pearl chokers and trademark cigarette holder.

The play's creative team returned to the time period that author Capote originally set his story, meaning during World War II, not the more glamorous

1960s of the movie. Playwright Richard Greenberg has made it truer to the grittier subject of the novella, which is more explicit in its exploration of the relationship between a gay man and a straight call girl.

"I almost think that 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' is one of those films that people know for the image and are unaware of the subtext of it as well. We don't shy away from that in the play. That's the beauty of it, I think," she says.

"In among the dirt is where you'll find the hope. It can only shine out in the glorious way that it does in the play if it's surrounded in murky waters."

Making things even harder is that Clarke is a huge Hepburn fan, who recalls watching her in "My Fair Lady" multiple times. And even though she has built her own Golightly, she still feels Hepburn's shadow.

"Audrey Hepburn inspired me, Emilia Clarke. That's something that's in my blood, that I can't ever get rid of. So whenever I approach a part, I'm taking my own history with me, I'm taking my own experiences with me."

Her co-star, Cory Michael Smith, who is making his Broadway debut in the role of Fred, says Clarke makes the role her own: "She's so marvelous and bright. You don't even see the shadow. The shadow's gone."

Clarke, a 2009 graduate of the Drama Centre School in

London, grew up on a TV diet of "I Love Lucy" and "Cheers." She stays fit with yoga and Pilates, and unwinds by listening to "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" audio book.

One thing that Golightly and her "Game of Thrones" characters share is intensity—and that includes some nudity, something Clarke says in both cases isn't gratuitous.

With "Game of Thrones," Clarke says being stripped down is necessary to understand her character's pain and heartbreak. In "Breakfast at Tiffany's," Golightly jumps into a bath with Fred. ("My dad has seen it maybe three times now and every time, he's like, 'I don't see anything!'"")

"The last thing I want to be known as is That-Chick-Who-Gets-Her-Clothes-Off. That's the very last thing I'd like anyone to ever say about me," she says. "I would hope—I would so, from the bottom of my heart, hope—that people wouldn't come and see the play just to cop a look at a young girl stepping into a bath."

Clarke's other acting credits include a guest spot on the British TV series "Doctors" and a role in a Jurassic Park-esque TV movie for Syfy called "Triassic Attack."

She got word that she'd landed the Golightly role a few days after that apple-filled audition. She was at a vegetarian restaurant in London when her agent called. "I freaked out, spilled the smoothie everywhere," she says, still giddy at the memory. "Genuinely, probably, the happiest day of my life so far."

Leonardo da Vinci gets 'Batman' treatment on Starz

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In these 500 years since Leonardo da Vinci, he has upstaged every genius multi-tasker in his wake.

Da Vinci was a whiz as a painter (hint: "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper"), a scientist and engineer, and a futurist dead-set on fighting the gravitational pull of his own times.

He was an intellect, free thinker, vegetarian and a humanist who supported himself designing weapons of war.

He was tall, handsome and a hit with the ladies. He was great with a sword and, being ambidextrous, which hand didn't matter.

"The phrase 'Renaissance Man' was derived from him," says David S. Goyer, who has spent a lot of time studying and pondering him, and has created "Da Vinci's Demons," a sci-fi



This publicity image released by Starz shows Tom Riley as Leonardo Da Vinci in a scene from "Da Vinci's Demons," premiering Friday, April 12 at 10 p.m. EST on Starz.



This publicity image released by Starz shows Tom Riley as Leonardo Da Vinci in a scene from "Da Vinci's Demons," premiering Friday, April 12 at 10 p.m. EST on Starz.

thriller set in the 1400s.

Another cool thing about da Vinci: He was a man of intrigue, ensconced in secret societies, his paternity unresolved (he was born out of wedlock), perhaps divinely inspired as he clashed with the Roman Catholic Church—a man who seemed to defy the confinements of any simple narrative.

"There's a tantalizing five-year gap, stretching from when he was 27 to 32, where there's almost no record of where he was or what he was doing," says Goyer. "A gap like that is gold when you're the creator of this show."

"Da Vinci's Demons," which premieres on the Starz network on April 12, is a "historical fantasy," says Goyer, who should be up to the challenge.

Born and raised in Michigan, he remembers spending half each Saturday in a comic book shop, the other half at the city's library.

Now 47, he is wiry and balding and bears a striking resemblance to the actor Stanley Tucci, whom he says he's never met but is often mistaken for.

His credits include the short-lived but ambitious sci-fi thriller "FlashForward," which prematurely fell prey to meddling by its network, ABC. He was script consultant and story developer for the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops" and its sequel. He co-wrote the 2005 film "Batman Begins" and its two sequels, and wrote the screenplay for the upcoming Zack Snyder-directed "Man of Steel."

In Goyer's view, da Vinci was the prototype of a superhero: "I picture him as one-third Indiana Jones, one-third Sherlock Holmes, one-third Tony Stark (Iron Man)—and he kind of was."

To play this extraordinary chap, Goyer chose English-born actor Tom Riley. The 31-year-old starred in the British TV medical drama "Monroe," and in 2011 performed on Broadway in the revival of Tom Stoppard's "Arcadia" alongside Billy Crudup and Raul Esparza.

Riley's da Vinci is sexy, mercurial and irrepressible. He savors life in his native Florence: "Chaos and culture are celebrat-

thoughts or I will be eviscerated by them."

At times he overreaches, stumbles and falls (though ever so dashing). And he has an eye for a pretty face, including—at high risk—comely Lucrezia Donati (Laura Haddock), the mistress of Lorenzo di Medici (Elliot Cowan), da Vinci's benefactor and one of the city's most powerful figures.

He has an answer for everything, including an accuser who brands him "arrogant."

"Arrogance implies that I exaggerate my own worth," da Vinci fires back. "I don't."

Goyer says he hit upon do-

A number of possible candidates were considered for what was now envisioned as a "reinvention-of-history show." There was Cleopatra and Genghis Kahn, "and also on that short list, da Vinci came up," recalls Goyer. "Then I realized, no one's ever done a show about da Vinci! That's crazy! People say he's the most recognized figure in history other than Jesus Christ!"

To prepare for the series, Goyer says he read dozens of biographies, da Vinci's journal pages and many of his letters.

He has written or co-written all eight episodes of season one



This publicity image released by Starz shows Laura Haddock as Lucrezia Donati in a scene from "Da Vinci's Demons," premiering Friday, April 12 at 10 p.m. EST on Starz.

ed within these walls," he says lustily. "Florence only demands one thing of its people—to be truly awake!"

But da Vinci suffers from being too awake. He is too driven, too full of ideas, too haunted by doubts about his life's intended mission. He is no stranger to opium, which he uses, he explains, because "I think too much. I need to dull my

ing a show about da Vinci only by chance. He had never done anything historical before, and when asked by Starz to create a drama focused on some towering figure from the past, he first demurred.

"I said, 'I'm not—no offense—interested in doing a kind of dry, BBC historical drama.' And they said, 'No, no, no. We don't want THAT!'"

(with work well under way on a second season's scripts), and directed the first two episodes of the show, which shoots in Wales.

Recapturing 15th-century Florence, not to mention the highfalutin exploits of da Vinci, demands impressive visual effects, and Goyer set the bar high: "My goal was to be at least on par with the production values of 'Game of Thrones,'"

he says.

But even as it recaptures the past, the show, like da Vinci, is forward-looking.

"The central conflict is about who controls information," Goyer says. "On the one hand, you've got the Vatican Secret Archives. The Church wants to control the information. On the other hand, shortly before our show starts, Gutenberg invented the printing press."

"This is a modern-day touchstone that viewers can identify with. If da Vinci were alive today, his slogan would be, 'Information wants to be free.'"

Goblin-proof chicken book wins odd-title prize

LONDON (AP)—A supernaturally tinged barnyard manual has won Britain's quirkiest literary award, the Diagram Prize for year's odddest book title.

"Goblinproofing One's Chicken Coop" by Reginald Bakeley was awarded the prize Friday by trade magazine The Bookseller.

The book took 38 percent of the votes in a public ballot, beating finalists including "How Tea Cosies Changed the World," "Was Hitler Ill?" and "God's Doodle: The Life and Times of the Penis."

"Goblinproofing One's Chicken Coop" is subtitled "and other practical advice in our campaign against the fairy kingdom." It is described by its Massachusetts-based publisher, Conari Press, as "the essential primer for banishing the dark fairy creatures that are lurking in the dark corners and crevices of your life."

Diagram Prize overseer Horace Bent said it was no coincidence "in these austere times that a book aimed to assist members of the public frugally farming their own produce proved the most popular title."

The book's editor, Clint Marsh, said he and the author were honored to receive a prize that "celebrates the playfulness that is at the heart of much of the world's best book publishing."

"Reginald and I take this as a clear sign that people have had enough of goblins in their chicken coops," he said. "Our campaign against the fairy kingdom continues."

The prize was founded in 1978. Its rules say the books must be serious and their titles not merely a gimmick.

Previous winners of the quirky prize include "Bombproof Your Horse," "Living With Crazy Buttocks" and "Managing a Dental Practice: The Genghis Khan Way."

'Breaking Bad' script missing after car break-in

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP)—Authorities in the U.S. have arrested a man who allegedly broke into "Breaking Bad" actor Bryan Cranston's car late last year and stole a script for the popular television show.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's officials announced Monday that 29-year-old Xavier Macafee is being held on suspicion of burglary. They say none of the stolen items have been recovered, but detectives are investigating.

Sheriff's officials say Cranston's car was broken into Dec. 20 while it was parked at Sandia Peak in New Mexico.

The award-winning AMC TV series is filming its fifth and final season.

A call to AMC network offi-

cials for comment on the script theft wasn't immediately returned.

"Breaking Bad" follows Cranston's character, Walter White, producing and selling methamphetamine with a former student.

Actor James Cromwell pleads no contest in US

MADISON, Wisconsin (AP)—Actor James Cromwell has pleaded no contest to disrupting a University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents meeting last month while protesting cat experiments at the school.

The 73-year-old Cromwell and another activist, 27-year-old Jeremy Beckham, were charged with disorderly conduct following the meeting on the UW-Madison campus Feb. 7.

Both men held large signs

showing a cat with metal implanted in its head at a campus lab while shouting about the treatment of cats.

Cromwell's attorney, Marcus Jens Berghahn, entered no contest pleas on both men's behalf Monday. A court com-

missioner ordered each to pay \$263 in forfeitures and costs.

Cromwell was nominated for an Academy Award for the 1995 film "Babe." His film credits also include "L.A. Confidential" and "The Green Mile."

Prince Harry to visit US, skipping Vegas this time



In this Sunday March 11, 2012 file photo Britain's Prince Harry gives a thumbs up during the award ceremony after playing a charity polo match in Campinas, Brazil. AP

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry is returning to the United States—but this time he's skipping Las Vegas.

The 28-year-old prince will travel to the U.S. East Coast as well as Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado, to support veterans' charities and get in a bit of polo.

Harry, a longtime supporter of charities that rehabilitate war veterans, will attend several events at

the 2013 Warrior Games, a competition in which veteran athletes from both Britain and the United States take part.

"Prince Harry wants to highlight once again the extraordinary commitment and sacrifice of our injured servicemen and women," said Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, Harry's private secretary.

Harry recently spent 20 weeks in Afghanistan as co-pilot gunner on an Apache attack

helicopter.

His May 9-15 visit will include trips to Arlington National Cemetery, Walter Reed National Medical Center and an exhibition on Capitol Hill about land mine clearance, a favorite subject of his late mother, Princess Diana. He will also visit areas in New Jersey hard hit by Hurricane Sandy.

Harry will also play in the Sentebale Polo Cup in Green-

wich, Connecticut. Sentebale—which means "forget-me-not"—is a charity founded by Harry and Lesotho's Prince Seeiso that helps children struggling with poverty in the tiny southern African country.

Jolie meets with women, girls in eastern Congo

GOMA, Congo (AP)—Angelina Jolie is meeting with women and girls in eastern Congo, where sexual violence is rampant.

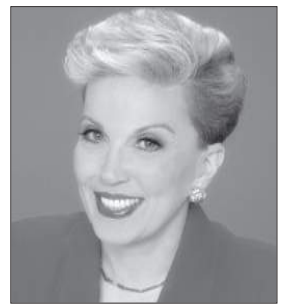
Jolie, a special envoy for the U.N. refugee agency, traveled to the Nzulo camp near Goma on Monday along with British Foreign Secretary William Hague.

The International Rescue Committee says it's provided care to more than 2,500 women and girls who have been raped or abused over the last year alone. The IRC is handing out kits with flashlights and whistles, as well as cleaning products so that women can avoid bathing at creeks where the risk of assault is higher.

Sexual violence is frequently used as a weapon of war by rebel groups that operate in eastern Congo, as well as by Congolese soldiers.

Woman refuses to give lover the kind of pleasure he wants

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I hope you will print this because I'm sure many women share this dilemma. My boyfriend, whom I adore and who is one of the kindest men on Earth, wants me to perform a certain sex act on him. While I understand that many people—and I don't judge them—enjoy it, I am not one of them. I would feel degraded if I even tried it.

He says he won't pressure me about it, yet he talks about it a lot. Just listening to him talk about it puts unwanted pressure on me. I have tried to be honest with him. I told him I don't want to do this, but I'm afraid if I don't, it will damage my relationship with him. However, if I give in, I'll end up feeling self-loathing and resentment. Either way, it will be damaging. We're in our 40s. Please offer any advice you might have.

WORRIED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WORRIED: You are indeed not alone in this dilemma. You should not have to do anything you are uncomfortable with. The next time your boyfriend raises the subject, turn the discussion to amorous activities you both enjoy. Then suggest that instead of this particular sex act, you engage in his "No. 2 favorite."

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 51-year-old woman with a question. What do you recommend a person do or say when being lied to? I'm not talking about the little white lies we all tell to spare someone's feelings, smooth things over, etc.

I once had a 21-year-old man tell me that he was a veteran of a war that had been over for 10 years! I felt like an idiot pretending to believe him and knew he'd be laughing at me later, but frankly, I felt scared to confront him.

HEARD A WHOPPER

DEAR HEARD A WHOPPER: If you have reason to feel that the person talking to you is being untruthful, be polite and end the conversation. And if your intuition tells you the person is someone to be afraid of, put as much distance between you as possible and avoid that person in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I am a plus-sized woman. I am loud and boisterous, and I like to surround myself with similar women. However, there is a problem I am now facing.

Many of my friends have made amazing transformations and gotten fit. I am fully supportive and impressed, but I see the price they are paying. They are no longer confident and vivacious. They have become timid, approval-seeking shells of their previous selves.

Why do newly thin women forget how awesome their personalities used to be?

BIG BEAUTY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BIG BEAUTY: Not knowing your friends, I can't answer for them. But it is possible that having become "transformed and fit," they no longer feel they need their loud and boisterous personas to compete for attention.

DEAR ABBY: When I was growing up, my father would ask my mother what she wanted, and then he would buy the opposite. For example, if she wanted a brown sofa, he would buy a blue one.

One day I realized that he acts the same way toward me. He will ask my opinion about the color of something—like an appliance—then buy the opposite color. Is there a name for this behavior?

ANONYMOUS IN ATLANTA

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Yes, there is. It is called "passive aggression," and it's a way of demonstrating veiled hostility without being directly confrontational.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

French reality show canceled after 25-yr-old dies

PARIS (AP)—The contestants on a French reality television show have returned home after a 25-year-old participant died of a heart attack on the first day of filming. Television station TF1 canceled the 16th season of "Koh Lanta"—a "Survivor"-like show filmed in Cambodia—after the death Friday of Gerard Babin. French media reported that the other contestants returned to France on Monday. A contestant from a previous season expressed shock in French media at the tragedy, saying medical staff were always on hand and the show was a "rolling hospital." TF1 has not released details about what the contestants were doing when Babin died. The show asks participants to complete physical challenges, often to win food, and contestants are

gradually voted off the show as the weeks progress.

Film academy sets Oscar dates for 2014 and 2015

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Film fans can already mark their calendars for the Academy Awards in 2014 and 2015. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Monday that next year's Oscar ceremony will be held on March 2. The 2015 trophies will be handed out Feb. 22. Awards shows, including the Oscars, are juggling their calendars to avoid overlap with the 2014 Winter Olympics, which will be held Feb. 7 to 23 in Sochi, Russia. Nominations for the 86th annual Academy Awards will be announced Jan. 16, 2014. Both the 2014 and 2015 Oscar ceremonies will be held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and broadcast live on ABC.

Legion accepts CBS apology over 'Amazing Race'

NEW YORK (AP)—The national commander of the American Legion says he accepts CBS' apology for a passage on TV's "The Amazing Race" where contestants visited the wreckage of an American B-52 bomber in Vietnam. The segment aired March 17 and angered many veterans, particularly those who served in the Vietnam War. As part of its scavenger hunt game, contestants on the CBS show had to visit the site in Hanoi, which Vietnamese authorities turned into a memorial. Before this Sunday's edition of "The Amazing Race," host Phil Keoghan read a statement apologizing to veterans and families who may have been offended. American Legion National Commander James Koutz accepted the apology, saying he believed it was

sincere and heartfelt.

MTV's VMAs taking a road trip to Brooklyn in 2013

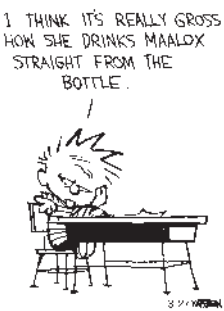
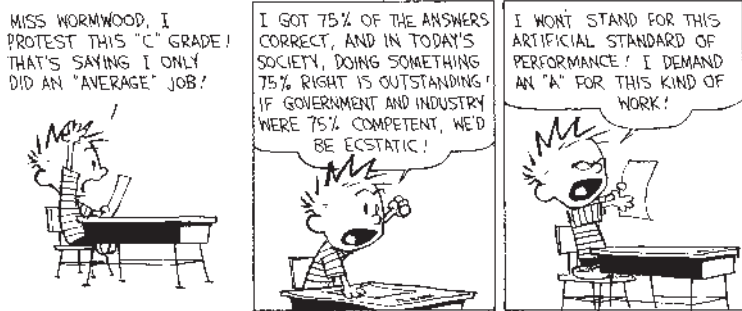
NEW YORK (AP)—The Video Music Awards are taking a road trip to Brooklyn. MTV's showcase awards show is traditionally held in Los Angeles or Manhattan. This year the show will be held Aug. 25 at the new Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets and the site of recent Rolling Stones and Jay-Z multi-night concerts. MTV will celebrate 30 years of the VMAs this year. From Kanye West and Taylor Swift to the Madonna-Britney Spears-Christina Aguilera kiss, the show has become known more for its pop culture moments than the winners of its signature Moonman trophies. The VMAs were last held in New York in 2009 and have been in Los Angeles since.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

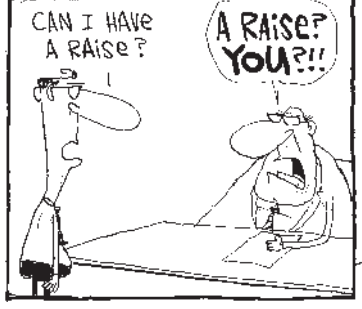
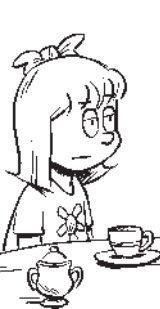
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



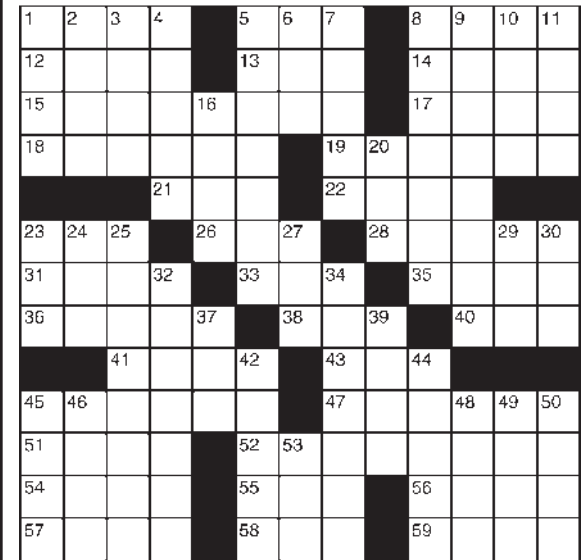
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swindle
 - 5 Poke
 - 8 Elliptical
 - 12 Arm bone
 - 13 Acapulco gold
 - 14 Arrived
 - 15 Resilience
 - 17 Former New York archbishop
 - 18 Legislative group
 - 19 Memo-rizes
 - 21 Ph. bk. data
 - 22 Sicilian spouter
 - 23 Scarlet
 - 26 Vigor
 - 28 Depend (on)
 - 31 Item on stage
 - 33 Bro or sis
 - 35 Teen's woe
 - 36 Haggard or Travis
 - 38 Prized possession
 - 40 "Eeeww!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Long sandwich
 - 2 Hint
 - 3 Soon
 - 4 Wor-shipper of Quetzal-coatl
 - 5 Family to keep up with
 - 6 Curve
 - 7 "Britain's Got Talent" phenom Susan
 - 8 Micro-, Mela-, and Poly-nesia
 - 9 Charge against a squatter
 - 10 "— for All Seasons"
 - 11 Camera part
 - 16 On
 - 20 Biblical verb suffix
 - 23 Spinning stat
 - 24 Before
 - 25 Sleeping state
 - 27 Glutton
 - 29 Wilde-beest
 - 30 "A mouse!"
 - 32 Columns' bases
 - 34 Game akin to pinochle
 - 37 Superla-tive ending
 - 39 Carte
 - 42 Thicket
 - 44 Curtain
 - 45 Branch
 - 46 Birthright
 - 48 Change for a five
 - 49 Dogfight
 - 50 Unit of force
 - 53 Charged bit

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fer-gie, 38; Nathan Fillion, 42; Mariah Carey, 44; Pauley Perrette, 44.

Happy Birthday: Partnerships will bring you opportunities and good fortune. Nurture the relationships you feel optimistic about, and do your best to develop new connections with those having something to contribute to your goals. Love and romance are highlighted, and changes to your home and the way you live will give you a new lease on life. Your numbers are 6, 8, 13, 24, 31, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotions will get worked up if you get into a disagreement with a partner or colleague. Proceed with caution, using facts and figures to back up your statements. Most of all, do not show anger, frustration or a hint of uncertainty. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Dealing with authority, institutions or government agencies will be trying. Don't take chances. Have all your papers in order to avoid being detained. A favor owed can be called in to help you improve your options. Don't divulge secrets. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Read between the lines. Not everyone will be honest with you, but as long as you stick to what you feel is required and nothing more, you will avoid being taken for granted. Love and romance will bring about a promise. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Accept inevitable change, and focus on what you like to do and do well. Your intuition won't let you down when dealing with peers, de-

pendents or superiors. You can make your point heard and make an improvement to your reputation. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Taking a trip that brings you in contact with people from your past will inspire you and boost your confidence. Taking the information you receive will contribute to your popularity and enhance your love life. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use your intelligence and your imagination along with sticking to a budget and you will excel professionally and financially. Invest in your skills and talent and offer your expertise at a premium. There is money to be made through a partnership. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional instability can lead to mistakes. Avoid putting pressure on someone or allowing anyone to dictate what you should do. Bide your time and concentrate on picking up information and skills along with fleshing out your options. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Solidify your position regarding a personal relationship that means a lot to you. Taking care of other people's problems will buy you the option to call in favors in the future. Let your intuition guide you in domestic matters. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You don't have to hide the truth or cover up what someone else is doing. Put more effort into your personal life. Making plans with someone you love will lead to adventure and enhance your relationship. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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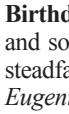
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to encounter delays while traveling or opposition from those you converse with. Stick to your own achievements without bringing other people into the equation. Putting pressure on others will lead to the same in reverse. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider how you earn your living and what you can do to make your current situation work better for you. Don't fold under pressure. It's up to you to make the moves and choices that will benefit you most. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more excessive you are, the more trouble you will face. Don't make promises you'll have trouble keeping. Focus on how to make your money work for you. Let your intuition guide you when it comes to money, legal and contractual matters. ★★



Birthday Baby: You are insightful, outgoing and softhearted. You are persistent, reliable and steadfast.

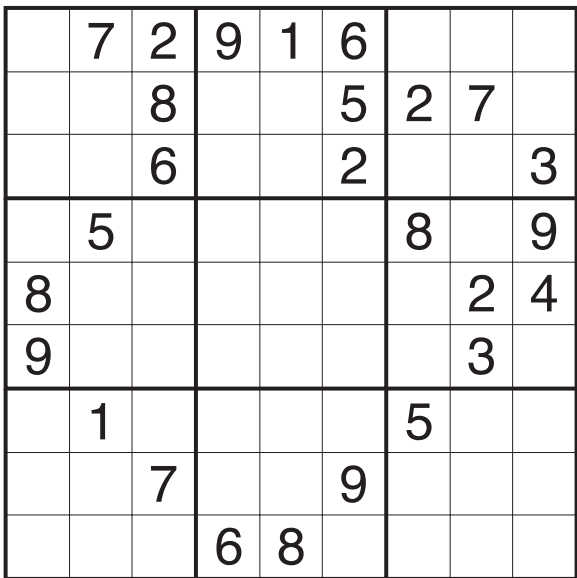


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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

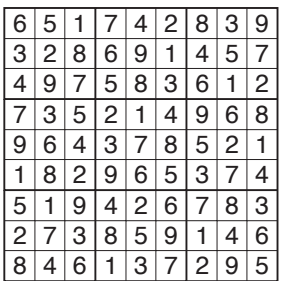


Difficulty Level ★★

3/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/26

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRUE RELIGION BRAND JEANS

Solution: 7 letters



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Bags, Belts, Boot-cut, Capri, Casual, Coats, Color, Crew, Denim, Dress, Dyed, Fast, Flare, Gloves, Handmade, Hats, Hippie, Hoodie, Jackets, Jeans, Jeffrey, Jewelry, Jewels, Knits, Label, Logo, Lubell, Mesh, Over, Pants, Petite, Polo, Press, Rinse, Rise, Scarves, Shirts, Shorts, Skirt, Slim, Stitch, Sunglass, Sweat, Tote, Duffel, Travel, Trouser, Vest, Vintage, Wash, Wide, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Seasoned

A long road back to No. 1 for Tiger Woods

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods never questioned his ability, only his health.

Woods returned to No. 1 in the world by winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational, not surprising except if you consider where he was a little more than a year ago. He had not won a PGA Tour in some 2 1/2 years. He missed most of the summer and two majors in 2011 because of injuries to his left leg and Achilles tendon. He walked off the course at Doral a year ago because of tightness in the same tendon. It wasn't until June that he felt good enough to hit balls on the range after a round.

Instead of a limp, he now has a swagger.

After making three straight bogeys to end his second round at Bay Hill, he stayed on the range for close to an hour. When someone noticed his caddie walking away, Joe LaCava replied, "Going to get another bucket."

Woods was at full strength in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, and he looked as good as ever.

Maybe better.

Woods never let anyone get closer than two shots in the final round Monday, and when they did, he always had an answer.

Rickie Fowler drained a 40-foot birdie putt on the 12th hole at Bay Hill to get within two shots, and Woods followed with a birdie putt from 25 feet, sweeping the putter into the air with his left arm and marching to the cup as it dropped.

Even after Fowler bowed out with a 7-iron that came up short and into the water—and another shot in the water that led to triple bogey—on the par-5 16th hole, Justin Rose was still in the picture only two shots behind. From a fairway bunker, Woods hit 8-iron from 178 yards to the middle of the green for a two-putt birdie.

And that was that.

Woods played it safe from the rough on the final hole and made bogey for a 2-under 70, giving him a two-shot win over Rose. He tied a PGA Tour record that had not been touched in 48 years. This was his eighth win in the Arnold Palmer Invitational in 16 appearances. Sam Snead won the Greater Greensboro Open eight times from 1938 to 1965.

"If I get healthy, I know I can play this game at a high level," Woods said. "I know I can be where I'm contending in every event, contending in major championships and being consistent day in and day out—if I got healthy. That was the first step in the process. Once I got there, then my game turned."

It turned the corner on two wheels.

Dating to that win at Bay Hill last year—the first for Woods on the PGA Tour since September 2009—he has won six of his



Tiger Woods holds the championship trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 25, 2013.

last 20 starts.

Is he back?

Woods never liked that question, perhaps because he's never sure how far he's going. And in his mind, golf is a game in

which a player never arrives.

"I'm getting there," Woods said. "I'm very pleased that some of the shots that I struggled with last year are now strengths. One of the things that

we need to continue to work on is getting it more refined. Because my good ones are really good. Just making sure the bad ones aren't that bad—whether it's a driver, 3-wood, long

iron, wedge—whatever it is, that I'm missing the ball in the correct spots. That's getting way better."

Perhaps the best measure of whether he's back is that no one else is in front of him.

Woods last was atop the world ranking in the final week of October 2010, a span of 125 weeks that represented his longest spell out of the top spot. He replaced Rory McIlroy, who has a chance to get back the No. 1 ranking this week at the Houston Open.

"It's a byproduct of hard work, patience and getting back to winning golf tournaments," Woods said.

The next step is winning majors. His next stop is Augusta National.

Woods has gone five years without winning a major, and eight years since he last won a green jacket at the Masters. He is trending in that direction with his three wins, and perhaps more significantly, with wins in his last two starts.

It had been 3 1/2 years since Woods last won consecutive tournaments he played, the Buick Open and Bridgestone Invitational in August 2009. The last time he won consecutive starts before April was in 2001, and he won the Masters to complete his sweep of the majors.

Asked the last time he felt this good about his game going into the Masters, Woods replied, "It's been a few years."

"I'm really excited about the rest of this year," he said.

Woods fell as low as No. 58 in the world as he coped with the collapse of his marriage, a loss of sponsors and injuries to his left leg. One week after he announced he was dating Olympic ski champion Lindsey Vonn, Woods returned to the top of golf.

"Number 1 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" Vonn tweeted moments after his win.

Asked if there was any correlation to him winning right after

going public with his relationship, Woods smiled and said, "You're reading way too much into this."

Like so many other victories, this one was never really close.

Fowler pulled to within two shots with a 25-foot birdie putt on the 14th hole, but after he and Woods made bogey on the 15th, Fowler went at the flag on the par-5 16th and came up a few yards short and into the water.

"I was swinging it well. I made a few putts, and trying to put a little pressure on them, let them know I was there," Fowler said. "Just would like to have that 7-iron back on 16. Just kind of a touch heavy."

Rose, who played the first two rounds with Woods, closed with a 70 to finish alone in second.

"He plays every shot like he plays them on Sunday," Rose said. "His intensity is the same on Thursday often as it is on Sunday, and that makes Sunday a lot less different for him. He plays in that kind of atmosphere far more regularly than a lot of guys do, and it's an adjustment for most of us. It's a known for him."

It was only fitting that Woods raised his putter to salute the fans as he walked off the 18th green. The club was like a magic wand this week. He dwarfed the field in putting statistics, and this might have been the most absurd of all - Woods was 19 of 28 in putts between 7 feet and 20 feet.

Players might be lining up to force Steve Stricker into full retirement for the putting tip he gave Woods at Doral.

"The three events that I've won, I've putted well," Woods said. "Stricks helped me out there at Doral and got me into position where I felt like I was now putting like I did at Torrey."

The trick now is whether he can carry that to Augusta National in two weeks.

Lohse, Brewers complete \$33 million, 3-year deal



PHOENIX (AP)—Kyle Lohse waited all winter and finally found a home with Milwaukee.

Lohse and the Brewers completed a three-year contract worth \$33 million on Monday, a big boost to their suspect rotation exactly a week before the season opener at home against Colorado.

"I'm really happy to be able to come over," Lohse said during a news conference at Milwaukee's spring training facility. "With this offense and the ability of their pitching staff, it looks like a good fit. I know everybody in the division."

Lohse enjoyed his best season in the majors last year, going 16-3 with a 2.86 ERA and helping the St. Louis Cardinals earn an NL wild-card spot.

When he hit the free-agent market, however, it took nearly the entire offseason for the 34-year-old right-hander to find a new team. He turned down a \$13.3 million qualifying offer from the Cardinals in November, so under baseball's new labor agreement most major league clubs had to be willing to forfeit a first-round draft pick if they wanted to sign him.

Apparently, that made potential suitors pretty hesitant.

"We have a system in place here that's affecting the major leagues. It's affecting major league players, it's affecting development and preventing a lot of people from doing their jobs effectively, particularly organizations like this who rely on development," said Lohse's agent, Scott Boras.

"They should be able to sign free agents if they wish and also develop as they wish, and I think it's best for baseball that we really re-examine this."

But the Brewers were in need of a reliable starter and general manager Doug Melvin said the move "makes us a better club than we were yesterday."

Lohse joins All-Star right-hander Yovani Gallardo at the top of the rotation, but the rest of the group is mostly unproven: Marco Estrada, Mike Fiers, Chris Narveson and Wily Peralta.

"Kyle is coming off two very good years and his experience and competitiveness will be welcomed by the club," Melvin said.

Milwaukee gave up the 17th overall pick in this year's amateur draft to land Lohse, who made 33 starts last year for the

Cardinals—one of Milwaukee's division rivals in the NL Central. He finished seventh in Cy Young Award voting, was first in the league in winning percentage (.842) and held opponents to a career-best .239 batting average.

Lohse is 118-109 with a 4.45 ERA in 12 seasons with Minnesota, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and St. Louis. He went 55-35 in five seasons with the Cardinals.

His debut for Milwaukee could be delayed until mid-April as he gets his arm in game shape. The Brewers said Lohse would start the regular season on the active roster.

"I always knew something would work out," said Lohse, expected to pitch Thursday against Colorado in a Cactus League game. "I didn't know it was go-

ing to be this late. I'm glad this worked out because it's a great situation and a great team for me to be on. If you had to go through what I went through to get here, I think it was worth it."

Lohse spent this spring working out with a couple of local colleges in Arizona: Scottsdale Community College and Grand Canyon University. Meanwhile, Boras told him to be patient.

"He's been the best pitcher in the National League Central the past two years," said Boras, who spoke after Lohse at the news conference.

Lohse recovered from an injury-plagued 2010 season, when he went 4-8 with a 6.55 ERA in 18 games, to finish 14-8 with a 3.39 ERA in 2011.

He will wear No. 26 with the Brewers.

Heat win 27th straight, run away from Magic



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Late in the third quarter, the game was tied and the Miami Heat winning streak seemed to be in jeopardy.

Then LeBron James got mad. And then the Orlando Magic had no chance.

James finished with 24 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, throwing down a dunk to start a huge, swift run that decided everything and the Heat won their 27th straight game by topping the Magic 108-94 on Monday night.

"We are not taking this team for granted," James said. "I continue to always say that in professional sports, wins are hard to come by and teams like this are really rare. To be part of a team like this, we do not take it for granted."

That dunk—which came one possession after James badly missed a layup and got frustrated—started what became a 20-2 run over merely a 4 1/2-minute portion of the third and fourth quarters, and it put the Heat in control for good.

He left one rebound shy of a triple-double, feigning disappointment. That's about all the Heat could complain about afterward.

Mario Chalmers scored 17, and Chris Bosh and Ray Allen each added 12 for Miami, giving Heat coach Erik Spoelstra his 250th win and bringing the reigning NBA champions within six games of matching the Lakers for the longest winning streak in league history, a 33-game run.

"We did enough late in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter to come away with this win," Spoelstra said. "That was some of our best in that fourth quarter on both ends of the court. ... Before that, it was a little bit of a sleepwalk."

Jameer Nelson had 27 points and 12 assists for the Magic, who got 20 points from Tobias Harris. And Magic coach Jacque Vaughn didn't exactly seem to think after the game that Miami's winning streak will end anytime soon.

"I'm far from the expert on that. ... That's a very good ball-club led by a very good player," Vaughn said. "It's impressive what they're doing."

The four-game road trip for Miami continues in Chicago on Wednesday, followed by a Friday matchup in New Orleans—which snapped Denver's 15-game winning streak on Monday night. Miami's trip ends Sunday in San Antonio.

It's now the second-longest winning streak in American major sports, behind only the Lakers' run. Baseball's New York Giants won 26 straight games in 1916, the New England Patriots took 21 consecutive NFL games in 2003 and 2004, and the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins won 17 consecutive times in 1993.

"When they got rolling, we had to try to stop them," said Orlando's Kyle O'Quinn. "But they got rolling too quick."



Miami Heat forward Chris Andersen (11) dunks the ball in front of Orlando Magic guard E'Twaun Moore, right, as the Heat's LeBron James, left, and Norris Cole (30) watch during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Monday, March 25, 2013.

Both teams were missing key components, Dwyane Wade for Miami and Nik Vucevic for Orlando.

Wade missed his second straight contest with a sore right knee, one that he said before the game had been bothering him periodically since March 9 and then flared up after a collision against Boston last week. He had an MRI exam over the weekend to rule out any major problems and plans to play at Chicago on Wednesday.

Vucevic sat his third straight game while dealing with a mild concussion. Vucevic averaged a staggering 22.5 points and 25 rebounds in two games against Miami earlier this season. Compounding the injury issues for Orlando was losing power forward Andrew Nicholson, the team's first player off the bench Monday, to a sprained left ankle just 1:52 after he checked in for what was the only time.

A 9-2 run early in the third gave Miami what was then its biggest lead, 64-53. Instead of deflating the Magic, it seemed to almost inspire the hosts, who answered with probably their best 5-minute stretch of the game, capped by a 3-pointer by Nelson with 3 minutes left that tied the game at 68-all.

And when James missed a layup at the other end, then got called for a foul after the rebound, Orlando may very well have been thinking that the

streak could soon be snapped.

Nope. "They're a great team," Magic rookie Maurice Harkless said. "They got a lot of different weapons out there. Obviously there's a reason why they've won so many games in a row. They just took it to another level at that point in the game. We couldn't punch back. They hit us and we couldn't find a way to hit back."

Miami needed only 2 minutes to close the quarter with 10 unanswered points, with James doing either the orchestrating or performing. He got loose on a curl for a dunk to start the run, and the Heat took off.

Chris Andersen—the Heat are now 29-1 when he plays—got Miami the ball with a spectacular block against Harkless. James then cleared everyone out to drive on Harkless, score and get fouled for a three-point play.

That was part of a rough few moments for the rookie out of St. John's.

Harkless threw the ball into the sideline seats on Orlando's next possession, and James found Allen for a 3-pointer. Harkless had another turnover with 19.5 seconds left and then fouled James with 4.2 ticks remaining. James missed both shots, but got his own rebound, was fouled by Harris and made those two ensuing free throws for a 78-68 Miami lead.

"Any time LeBron gets a

dunk, that excites everybody," Chalmers said. "Makes us play a little bit harder."

The run didn't stop there. Allen started the fourth quarter with a 3-pointer, pushing Miami's edge to 81-68 as Orlando's Beno Udrih—who was 0 for 8 from the field at that point—lay writhing in pain under the basket after apparently being hit in the face.

It was injury to insult, at that point.

Norris Cole lobbed one off the glass to James for a dunk and an 83-70 lead, Allen made another 3-pointer on the next possession, James set up Andersen for an alley-oop dunk as half the arena roared in delight as the reigning champions pushed the margin to 18.

Game, over.

Streak, not over.

Hornets 110, Nuggets 86

In New Orleans, Ryan Anderson scored 23 points, Brian Roberts doubled his career high with 18 assists and short-handed New Orleans ended Denver's 15-game win streak.

New Orleans, playing without its starting backcourt of Eric Gordon and Greivis Vasquez, won its third in a row and was in control all the way.

Roberts, a rookie making his second start, had 11 assists by halftime, two more than his previous best. Anderson was 5 of 11 on 3-pointers, and the Hornets sank 14-of-25 3s as seven players scored in double figures.

Danilo Gallinari had 24 points for the Nuggets, who were without starting point guard Ty Lawson (right heel injury) for the third consecutive game.

Wizards 107, Grizzlies 94

In Washington, John Wall scored a career-high 47 points and added eight assists, Emeka Okafor had 21 points and nine rebounds, and undermanned Washington beat Memphis.

Wall shot 13 of 22 from the field and made a career-high 19 free throws on 24 attempts.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 23 points.

It was Washington's sixth straight home win, while Memphis dropped its fourth straight road game.

Already without guard Bradley Beal (sprained left ankle), guard A.J. Price (groin) and forward Trevor Ariza (flu), Wizards coach Randy Wittman announced before the game that forwards Nene (sore right knee) and Martell Webster (abdomen strain) were also out.

Memphis center Marc Gasol missed his second straight game after aggravating an abdominal tear Friday at New Orleans.

Pacers 100, Hawks 94

In Indianapolis, Gerald Green scored 19 points and Roy Hibbert finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds, leading short-handed Indiana past Atlanta.

The Pacers (44-27) extended their Central Division lead to five games over second-place Chicago with 11 games to play. And they did it despite playing without Danny Granger, George Hill, Lance Stephenson or Da-

vid West. All four sat out with injuries.

They also won on a night that Atlanta (39-32) could have clinched a playoff spot.

Josh Smith led the Hawks with 20 points and Al Horford had 13 points and eight rebounds, not nearly enough against the revamped and focused Pacers.

Warriors 109, Lakers 103

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Curry had 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds on a sprained right ankle, and the Golden State Warriors held off the Los Angeles Lakers.

David Lee added 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Klay Thompson scored 22 points to propel the Warriors to a 25-point lead early in the third quarter in a matchup with huge playoff implications. Golden State (41-31) improved to a game ahead of idle Houston (39-31) and 4 1/2 games in front of the Lakers (36-35) for sixth place in the Western Conference.

Los Angeles' lead over Utah (35-36) for the final playoff spot is down to one game. The Jazz beat Philadelphia 107-91 in Salt Lake City earlier Monday night.

Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and Steve Nash had 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists in an otherwise lackluster Lakers effort. Los Angeles has lost three straight games, and the latest was never even close.

Jazz 107, 76ers 91

In Salt Lake City, Randy Foye scored 17 points, Gordon Hayward added 15 on 3-of-3 shooting beyond the arc and the Utah Jazz beat the Philadelphia 76ers to halt a four-game losing streak.

Utah entered Monday tied with Dallas for ninth place in the Western Conference, two games behind the Los Angeles Lakers, who had a late game against the Golden State Warriors.

Seven players scored in double figures for the Jazz (35-36), who had dropped 12 of their previous 15 to fall behind the Lakers. Utah plays seven of its final 11 games at home, where the Jazz are 25-9.

Dorell Wright scored 19 for the Sixers (27-43), who closed out a four-game Western road trip.

Howland bids farewell to UCLA after firing



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Howland kept it classy in departing as UCLA basketball coach on Monday, thanking the athletic director who had fired him a day earlier while noting the high expectations that come with running a program that owns a record 11 national championships.

Howland was applauded by supporters as he walked into a news conference at Pauley Pavil-

ion for the last time. The 55-year-old coach expressed gratitude for his 10-year run in Westwood, the longest tenure since John Wooden retired in 1975 after 27 years on the sideline.

Howland had a 233-107 record that included three consecutive Final Four appearances and four Pac-12 titles, including this season, when the Bruins were 25-10. Their season ended with a 20-point loss to Minnesota in the sec-

ond round of the NCAA tournament.

"As a coach, you always remember the losses way better than the wins," he said.

Howland said he's excited about his future and wants to coach again, although he doesn't know where or when that will happen.

"It's where the best opportunity is," he said afterward. "I can live anywhere. I want to compete at the highest level."

Rocco Reyes, Dave Camacho leading SML stats

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



D-9ers' Rocco Reyes and Saipan Stevedore Co. Northern Yankees' Dave Camacho are the Saipan Major League's current hitting and pitching leaders as of last Friday, March 22.

Reyes has logged nine hits

in 19 at bats for a league-tops hitting rate of 0.474.

He leads IT&E Fielders-duo, Juan Maratita (.467) and Jordan Pangelinan (.435), Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos (.400), Fielders' John M. Reyes(.375), St. Michael's Medical Response Angels' Nunu Kapileo (.391), and Fielders' Shane Mendiola (.313) and Ricardo Dela Cruz

(.313) with two other holding a minimum of 18 plate appearances swinging at 0.250 and above.

Pangelinan's 10 runs batted in sets the bar in front of teammate Maratita (7), Delos Santos (7) and Tan Holdings Brewers' Manny Sablan (7); Delos Santos' three triples leads the field; Pangelinan's three doubles leads 11 others

tied at two apiece; Pangelinan has also crossed the plate a league-high 13 times and paces Mendiola, Reyes, Maratita and Delos Santos.

Yankees slugger Brian Camacho has belted two home runs thus far and leads lone solo act Leonard Sablan of the Brewers.

Dave Camacho has allowed zero earned runs through 10 innings on the mound and is

the only pitcher at least seven frames of work maintaining a perfect 0.00 earned run average.

He is leading Angels' Franco Flores (1.23), Yankees' Tony Benavente (2.38), IT&E's Jimmy Brel (2.53), Brewers' Vince Cepeda (2.66), D-9ers Ben Lizama Jr. (2.70), and IT&E's Shane Mendiola (2.84) with a trio of others coming in between 4.15 and 4.42.

Cepeda's 35 strikeouts, through 23 2/3 innings leads the race ahead of Lizama Jr.

(20), Mendiola (19), IT&E's Joe Palacios (17), Brewers' Tom Camacho (12), and Yankees Dave (12) and Jared Camacho (11).

Overall team standings list the undefeated Yankees (7-0) heading the IT&E Fielders (5-2), Brewers (3-2), Angels (1-5), and D-9ers (0-7).

The season continues tonight at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Field at 6:30pm with the D-9ers taking on the Angels.

BRAVES

From Page 28

before the Braves held on to secure the last three outs.

Braves' Bradley Camacho batted 3-for-3 for three RBIs and two runs. Joe Randy Tudela swung 2-for-4 for two runs, while Falcons' Ace Evangelista batted 2-for-4 for two RBIs and a run

The Braves out-hit the Falcons 11-6 in the game.

Winning pitcher Noel Cabrera gave up five runs, four earned, through 4 1/3 innings off four hits and a hit batsman with five strikeouts.

SATURDAY Comets II 16, IT&E 15

IT&E enjoyed a 12-9 advantage heading into the fifth inning when the Comets II flashed seven unanswered runs on the board off three hits sprinkled amid seven walks and some extra throws around the infield.

The turn in events marked the fifth lead change of the game.

IT&E threatened with three runs at the end to log its fifth multiple-run inning of the game but were stood up despite out-hitting its rivals 14-5 in the game; IT&E also committed less errors in the match 4-6, but also gifted 19 bases on balls.

At the start IT&E led it, 3-2, in the opening frame and extended it to 10-6 by the third inning, after adding four runs in the second exchange.

Reliever Jess Taitano stepped to the mound to close the fourth frame.

He went on to deal IT&E's only scoreless inning in the

fifth and held it together for the last three outs.

Comets II's Ried Teregeyo went 1-for-1 for two RBIs and two runs with four bases on balls. Ignacio Mendiola batted 1-for-1 for an RBI and three runs with four bases on balls, while IT&E's Kyle Kapileo swung 2-for-3 for three RBIs and two runs. Alan Hinson batted 3-for-4 for two RBIs and two runs and Jacinto Cruz went 2-for-4 for two RBIs and two runs.

Comets I 29, Twins 9

The game started close as home team As Matuis Twins answered a five-run calling card by the Comets I in the first inning and took a 6-5 lead early on. However, the Comets I rolled off five more runs in the second turn for a 10-7 favor.

They then exploded with 14 runs in the third inning and stamped five more just to make sure in the fourth frame to bag the early decision.

The Comets I did its damage off 15 hits and the help of 13 bases on balls and a dozen errors out on the field by its opposition.

Comets I's Elijah Villar swung 4-for-5 for three RBIs and three runs. Franco Ray Masga went 2-for-2 for four runs and two bases on balls, while Rejay Iskawa went 2-for-4 for an RBI and three runs. Twins' Bradley Pangelinan batted 3-for-3 for an RBI and two runs, while Alvin Borja went 1-for-1 for an RBI and a run.

Rockies 18, Enforcers 5

The Rockies started off with a strong 5-1 lead after the first inning and later pounced the En-

forcers with 13 runs in the third frame for the sound victory.

They kept their opponents at bay on the field and gave up just four runs in the last two exchanges to secure the early decision.

It was a solid win as the group hammered 13 hits in the match.

Donavin Ada led the team from both sides and gave up five runs, three earned, through four innings off five hits and three walks with 12 strikeouts. He also batted 3-for-4 for three runs with three stolen bases.

His teammate Anthony Tenorio swung 3-for-4 for two RBIs and two runs. Austin Ada went 2-for-2 for three RBIs and two runs and Dai Podziewski batted 1-for-2 for two RBIs, two runs, and two bases on balls. Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar batted 2-for-2 for three RBIs, while Dennis Cabrera went 2-for-3 for three runs.

SUNDAY Laolao Bay 21, Survivors 4

Laolao Bay worked out an early 4-1 lead out of the gate before catching a 10-run wave in the second inning for a commanding lead.

The Survivors mustered three runs in response, but Laolao Bay went on to add seven moiré runs in the bottom of the third inning to secure the nod via mercy rule.

The team cranked out 14 hits in the game.

The Laolao pitching duo of Joe Joyner and Pete Maratita gave up three earned runs and a pair off three hits with seven strikeouts through two innings apiece.

Laolao's Joyner swung 2-for-

lected 51 points to make it to the podium, along with Ryuto Yanai, who logged 55 points for a runner-up finish in the boys division. Ryuto was just a point behind division champion Caleb White of Tsunami Guam, while the latter's teammate Caleb White rounded out the Top 3 with his 43 markers.

Tsunami Guam had a 1-2 finish in the girls 11 to 12 with Reina Ross (61) downing teammate Kylie Miller (54). While Manukai's Katelee McCormick completed the Top 3 with her 52 markers.

Tsunami Saipan also had a 1-2 finish in the girls 13 to 14 with Tan gaining 62 points and De Jesus earning 58 to tie Tsunami Guam's Hannah White for the runner-up honors. Manukai's Danielle Atoigue also

3 for six RBIs and three runs with a bases on ball. Maratita batted 4-for-4 for an RBI and two runs. Justin Celis went 2-for-3 for an RBI, three runs, and a bases on ball.

McDonald's 31, Rangers 2

McDonald's barreled ahead, 13-0, in the opening frame and never looked back.

They went on to add six runs in the second inning and five more in the third for a daunting 24-1 favor and took no prisoners at the end, adding another seven to slam the door on the Rangers.

The team bashed 14 hits altogether coupled with 16 bases on balls.

They strategically inserted four pitchers in the match that combined to allow just two earned runs off one hit to Rangers' Franco Namauleg and five walks with 10 strikeouts.

McDonald's Jayden Tenorio swung 4-for-4 for six RBIs and five runs with a base on ball. Spencer Dickinson batted 4-for-4 for an RBI and five runs with a base on ball, while Jared Reyes batted 2-for-2 for three RBIs and five runs with two base on ball.

Little Legals 14, Jets 2

The Little Legals built on an early 3-0 lead from the first inning with seven runs in the third frame for a 10-1 advantage and went on to put the run-rule in effect with four runs in the fourth inning.

The Jets were unable to score the four runs needed to keep the match going in the bottom side.

Little Legals' Rayson Lisua went yard to start the uprising

made it to the podium with her third-best 57 points.

In the boys 13 to 14, Tsunami Guam's Jagger Stephens logged 64 points to outclass Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai, who had 57 points. Justin Fell of Tsunami Guam rounded out the Top 3.

In the 15-and-above age group, Tsunami Guam swept both the boys and girls Top 3 with Misaki Iijima (63), Pilar Shimizu (55), and Emma Rione (53) making it to the podium. SSC's Victoria Chentsova, who was among the youngest in the division came in at fourth with her 49 points. In the boys division, Tasi Limtiaco (64), Soujyu Usui (60), and Yuya Kitadate (55) took the Top 3 spots, while Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura placed fourth with his 53 points.

SAVELLANO

From Page 28

third place in the singles.

In the C division, Dianne Francisco gained the top honors after sweeping Roxe Lazaro in the winner-take-all finals, 21-8, 21-15, last Saturday. Havika Farro rounded out the Top 3 after winning over Lani Santos.

In the doubles division, Lazaro avenged her loss to Francisco, as the former partnered with Santos in slipping past Francisco and Jenny Lee in the finals last Sunday. Lazaro and

TAITANO

From Page 28

pinfalls in four games (180, 189, 135, and 202) and she took a 66-pinfal lead over Tess Fabie (640) at the end of Day 1. Elena Soll also competed in the first day of the tournament and rounded out the Top 3 with her 625 pinfalls.

Soll returned on Day 2, but her 652 pinfalls was only good enough for third place anew, while Villavicencio showed up in the last day of the tournament and fell 35-pinfal short of overtaking Taitano. Fabie also played in Day 2, but dropped to fourth after getting only 651 pinfalls.

Eight other female bowlers joined the March roll-offs with Gloria Omechelang coming in at fifth with her 643 pinfalls, followed by Ron Call (636), Cynthia Gugulan (623), Gigi Zapanta (618), Linda Yarobwemal (609), Carol McKenzie (597), Marie Candado (543), and Myrna Santos (539).

In the King of the Lanes, Robert Talavera notched his first win of the season after beating siblings Raymond and Raphael Zapanta.

Talavera's strong starts (216 and 191 pinfalls in Games 1 and 2 and 188 each in the last two games) proved to be the deciding factor in the tournament, as he ended up with 783 pinfalls, just eight-pinfal ahead of Raymond (775). Raymond, who won in January, was just be-

Santos took the first game, 21-17, but missed the sweep when Francisco and Lee prevailed in the second game, 21-18. The deciding third game was another close fight with Lazaro and Santos showing poise in the end, pulling off a 21-19 victory.

The Top 3 finishers in the women's singles and doubles divisions received medals at the awards ceremony last Monday night from Sun Palace co-owner Shirley Kim and her son Michael.

Meanwhile, winners in the men's division will be published in *Saipan Tribune's* Thursday edition.

hind by five pinfalls after three games last Monday (189, 189, 212), but faltered on his bid for a second victory this season, after tallying only 185 pinfalls in the last game. Raphael had the best single game score among the Top 3 finishers with his 221 pinfalls, but failed to sustain his momentum in the homestretch, recoding 169, 166, and 177, to drop to third place with his 733 pinfalls.

Fourteen others joined the men's competition with Jorge Soledad (703), Raymond Angeles (697), Efrén Cadac (692), Jae Yong Kim (659), Percy Omechelang (651), Ronald Batac (620), and Paul Pangelinan (617) rounding out the Top 10.

Two in a row for Lee

In the Fiji Water Prince/Princes of the Lanes, Ji Hoon Lee bested six other participants after scoring 644 pinfalls in four games.

Lee, who won his debut in the youth roll-off last month, was the lone bowler in his division to record at least 600 pinfalls (108, 209, 180, and 147). His victory last Sunday spoiled Leeanne Yarobwemal's return to the youth competition, as the latter settled for runner-up honors after collecting 533 pinfalls (123, 123), 127, and 160).

January winner John Taisacan completed the Top 3 after tallying 527 pinfalls, while Marcel McKenzie (498) came in at fourth, followed by Sam Soledad (465), Ryan Batac (444), and Aaron Zhu (439).

10 CNMI

From Page 28

50m and 100m butterfly, 200m medley relay, 200m freestyle, 50m and 100m breaststroke, and 200m IM, and second in the 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Joining Akimaru and Yanai in the Top 3 was Manhoben Swim Club's Santiago Poppe, who earned 53 points. SSC's Geuel Christian Villacrusis came in at fourth with 47 points, followed by teammates David Boyer (33) and Michael Villagomez (30), Tsunami Saipan's Yuuki Nishida (26) and Mark Maestro (26), Manhoben's Hunter Shank (14) and SSC's R.J. Pierce (14). Only the Top 3 high-point winners received

awards from SSC last Sunday.

Other Top 3 high-point placers for the CNMI were Tsunami Saipan's Jun Tenorio, Kenshiro Yanai, Miku Tammy, Sophia Gauran, Ryuto Yanai, Angel Marie Tan, Angel De Jesus, and Kaito Yanai.

Tenorio notched 62 points to rule the boys U8 division and beat teammate Kenshiro, who gathered only 58 markers. Tsunami Guam's Chuckie White rounded out the Top 3, while his teammates Esabelle Eldridge (52) and Risa Hendrix (46) made it to the Top 3 in the girls division along with Manukai's Jada Jones (50).

Tammy was the runaway winner in the girls 9 to 10 after getting 64 points, 12 markers ahead of runner-up Roxanne Mikel of Tsunami Guam. Gauran col-

35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants in the 2.5-kilometer race in last Sunday's 35th Annual SSC Ocean Swim head to the course in the waters off Susupe.



Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai gets a hi-five from Saipa Swim Club president Robert Torres.



Swimmer in the 1.3-kilometer race make their turn at the first buoy.



A volunteer timer takes not of the finishers' numbers.



Former Saipan Swim Club swimmer Lester Lapuz runs to the finish line.



Saipan Swim Club's Victoria Chentsova beats Tsunami Guam's Pilar Shimizu in the women's 2.5-kilometer race.



Tiffany Lin nears completion of the 1.3-kilometer race.



Saipan Swim Club's Coume Kaga is on her way to a runner-up finish in the 600m race.



A participant in the 600m race checks the shore.



Two participants in the 600m race move out of the water.

**A long road
back to No.
1 for Tiger
Woods**

PAGE 24



Saipan Tribune Sports

**Heat win 27th
straight, run
away from
Magic**

PAGE 25



28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Savellano, Choi get two titles



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Michael Kim, Janelle Pangilinan, Jen Savellano, Cris Obaldo, and Shirley Kim pose for a photo during the awarding of medals to the Top 3 finishers in the women's singles B division of the Sun Palace tournament last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Community Badminton Club's Jen Savellano and Saipan Badminton Club's Hannah Choi gained twin tiaras in the Sun Palace Hotel Singles and Doubles Badminton Competition 2013 that concluded last Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Savellano first clinched the women's singles B title against fellow youth player and CBC co-member Janelle Pangilinan, cruising to a 21-17, 21-18 victory in last Sunday's finals. Cris Obaldo completed



the Top 3 after winning the all-CBC battle for third place against Jen

Cardinio also last Sunday, 21-14, 21-18.

Savellano's second triumph came in the women's B doubles when she teamed up with Obaldo in sweeping Pangilinan and Cardinio in last Monday's finale, 21-18, 23-21. Shirley's Badminton Club's Annetta Ta and Windy Fernandez took third place after beating Golden Racquets' Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno in the consolation game, 21-18, 21-16.

Duplicating Savellano's twin wins was Choi, who prevailed in the women's A singles and doubles. Choi made short work of the Berks Blazers' Lani Bartolome in the singles finale, 21-13, 21-3, and then joined forces with Alma Ortega in topping Bartolome and Marlene Peraja in the doubles game, 21-8, 18-21, 21-14. Mother and daughter Loida and Angie finished third in the doubles and the latter also claimed

See SAVELLANO on Page 26

Braves blemish Falcons' perfect streak in Majors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Natibu Sports Association Braves (5-1) outlasted the Talaabwogh Stars Association's previously undefeated Falcons (6-1), 8-7, in Saipan Little League's Major Division matchup last Thursday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Field.

Aside from a 16-15 nailbiter that fell in favor of Attorney Vince Torres Comets II (5-2) over IT&E (1-6) on Saturday, the rest of last weekend's parings yielded irregular results.

The Comets I (5-1) shelacked the Rep. Chrostopher D. Guerrero LG As Matuis Twins (1-6), 29-9, and the Pin-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort batter takes a swing in this 2013 Saipan Little League Major Division file photo taken at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Field.

nacle Staffing Rockies (5-1) routed the Junior Police Officer Program Enforcers (4-3), 18-5, as well on Saturday,

while on Sunday Kagman's Laolao Bay Golf Resort (5-2) overwhelmed Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha's Store Survi-

vors (1-6), 21-4; McDonald's of Saipan (3-1) grilled Joeten Motors Kagman Ford Rangers (0-7), 31-2; and Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Legals (4-4) handily defeated the Juan Santiago Jets (1-6), 14-2.

The rest of the Majors include GSM Ol'Aces (4-1) and Bank of Saipan Red Sox (2-4).

The season continues on Tan Ge Field tomorrow at 4pm when McDonald's faces off with the Twins.

**THURSDAY
Braves 8, Falcons 7**

After falling behind early in the first inning, 0-1, the Braves manufactured a 4-3 edge after four frames and both teams put up four runs in the fifth exchange

See BRAVES on Page 26

10 CNMI swimmers get high-point awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru and Tsunami Saipan's Hiroto Yanai led eight other CNMI swimmers who gained high-point awards in the 2013 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet held over the weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Akimaru and Yanai tied for the top honors in the boys 11 to 12 age group after collecting

62 points apiece. Points were given to swimmers based on how they finished in each races. A first placer is awarded eight points, seven for second, and so on until the No. 8 placers.

Yanai got eight points each from the 1,500m freestyle swim, 50m backstroke, 800m freestyle, 50m freestyle, and 100m freestyle, seven apiece in the 200m freestyle and 200m individual medley, and 16 in the 200m freestyle relay. Akimaru finished first in the

See 10 CNMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Kensuke Kimura, left, and Kaito Yanai engage in a tight race in the 100m breaststroke event in the 2013 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Taitano ends Villavicencio's run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Lala Taitano foiled Yho Villavicencio's bid for an early three-peat after winning the SBA/Budweiser March Queen of the Lanes Tournament at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Taitano's Day 1 best score of 706 pinfalls last Sunday was

undefeated last Monday, as the January and February roll-offs winner Villavicencio mustered only 672 pinfalls in the second day of the tournament. The monthly roll-offs are held for two days and participants are allowed to bowl on both days, but only the higher score is counted.

Taitano was the only kegler in her field to post at least 700

See TAITANO on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

March Queen of the Lanes Lala Taitano is flanked by runners-up Yho Villavicencio, right, and Elena Soll during the awards ceremony for the SBA/Budweiser monthly roll-offs last Monday at the Capitol Bowling Center.